

# Unst Partnership Ltd

## MINUTES OF A MONTHLY MEETING HELD IN UNIT 1, HAGDALE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

ON Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 at 6:30pm.

### PRESENT

Gordon Thomson  
Jane Macaulay  
Sarah McBurnie  
George Rodger

### IN ATTENDANCE

Bridgette Thomason  
Toby Sandison  
Verona Shaw

### **1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies were noted from Susan Edwards-Horton, Les Sinclair and Fiona Stirling.

### **2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING [30/06/2015] AND MATTERS ARISING**

Minutes proposed and approved by SM, seconded by GR.

### **3. LDO REPORT**

TS provided an update on activity over the weeks since the previous meeting.

#### *a) Community Skips*

One skip day had taken place since the previous meeting. Turnout had been slightly down which was thought to be due to a late decision to reschedule for a funeral in the community. The next agreed date was **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October**.

BT gave an update on the finances for the skip project. There was a forecasted shortfall in income which would have to be covered from UP reserves. There was a discussion about ways to make the scheme more economical next year. It was suggested the cost of skip hire is inflated by labour time as skips have to be taken up and returned on the same day due to the lack of a secure site. Membership fees could also be reviewed to increase income.

#### *b) Energy Isles*

There was a discussion about the proposed investment by the community in the Energy Isles project, which will involve the erection of wind turbines in North Yell. GT also outlined potential plans for further turbine instalments along the Eastern side of Unst.

TS explained that an independent body would be set up with six representatives, two from each of Unst, Yell and Fetlar. At the time of the meeting, only one Unst rep had been confirmed. It would need to remain clear throughout that UP's role in the project would purely be to help facilitate public consultation.

*c) Food Waste Scheme*

TS was set to meet with staff at Shetland Islands Council Infrastructure Services to discuss whether the Council could support the project, particularly with the collection of food waste from homes.

Possible sites for the project were discussed, including the option of a new build premises. TS to speak to Robert Thomson about shed built by Fetlar Developments for electric minibus. VS to enquire about availability of land belonging to Unst Agricultural Show committee.

*d) North Isles for Community Broadband*

TS explained that a steering group would need to be set up to move the project forward. Support and funding could be available for Community Broadband Scotland for project scoping, network design and installation. TS to continue looking for interested individuals to join steering group.

Questions were raised over why the project should begin with a pilot on Fetlar, as it was felt that Fetlar has better broadband service than parts of Unst. TS to discuss with Robert Thomson.

*e) Halligarth House*

A.B. Associates had distributed a final draft of the activity and interpretation plans, for which the deadline for comment had passed. Once these documents were finalised the National Trust for Scotland would pursue funding applications for the project, with a funding decision expected in December 2015.

*f) Hydrogen Project*

The first deliverable of the project, an initial options assessment report, had been moved back by one month to the end of October 2015. However, this was not expected to impact on the overall timeline of the project.

*g) Tourism*

Megan Burns had been employed on a part time basis to cover some of the TDO's responsibilities following departure of Tom Morton.

UP had been invited to apply for additional funding from the Coastal Communities Fund. A bid had been submitted to employ an additional TDO to deliver on the Destination North Isles action plan, comprising a shared approach to tourism development across Unst, Yell and Fetlar. An outcome from this application was expected in early October 2015.

GT explained that the TDO's responsibilities would have included approaching tourism providers during the off season and gathering data. This would be challenging for MB to complete remotely. The group discussed directors conducting these meetings, however there were concerns about availability and potential conflicts of interest. It was suggested that some of the budget surplus be used to hire an external company to conduct research. GT to contact A.B. Associates for a quote.

#### **4. Financial Report**

BT explained that the LDO post was funded up to March 2016 but that no funding had been confirmed for thereafter. There was a discussion about staffing options once VS returns from maternity leave. It was agreed that the Directors should meet without staff present to discuss options further and to decide what will happen after March 2016.

#### **5. AOCB**

A colour photocopier had been ordered through the charity InKind Direct. This was a refurbished Ricoh machine and the purchase included a quarterly service agreement covering consumables and maintenance. TS to advertise photocopying services available once the copier is up and running.

#### **6. Date Of Next Meeting**

Date of next meeting is unconfirmed. Directors to meet privately following outcome of CCF funding bid to discuss future staffing options.