

Unst Partnership Ltd

MINUTES OF A MONTHLY MEETING HELD IN UNIT 1, HAGDALE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE ON MONDAY 2nd JUNE 2014 AT 6.30PM

PRESENT

Susan Edwards-Horton
George Rodger
Jane Macaulay
Minnie Mouatt
Steven Swan
Gordon Thomson (Chair)
Paul Thomson

IN ATTENDANCE

Verona Shaw

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Gordon welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted from Colin Edwards-Horton, Frances Browne, Fiona Stirling and Bridgette Thomason.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from the meeting on 6th May 2014 were proposed by GR and seconded by MM.

Copies of the approved minutes to be circulated to North Isles Councillors, Unst Community Council and displayed locally and on the website.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTE (NOT ON THE MAIN AGENDA)

GT requested that thanks be sent to Chris Dumont for his time served as a Director with the Partnership. VS to follow up.

GT enquired if the new 2014 Unst Map had been distributed and it was confirmed that it is available locally, on the ferries and in Lerwick/Sumburgh. SEH offered to take more to Lerwick also.

GT asked for an update on the meetings relating to tourism and follow on from the Shetland Geopark workshop. VS explained that on-going meetings with local interested individuals continue to take place to develop a trial tourism 'package' for the North Isles. The Director agreed that it was good to use local knowledge and experience to run packages from Unst/Yell. The group will need to look into how a package could be administrated and delivered and considered if UP could take on the role as operator. It was acknowledged that this also ties in with the application to Coastal Communities Fund for a tourism development officer. To be discussed at further meetings.

The potential for a Shetland Credit Union satellite office in Unst, managed by UP (as volunteers) was discussed again. It was agreed to talk with Jeff Goddard about holding a money advice night and open doors to raise awareness of the services available and to gauge local interest. VS to contact JG.

The Minutes were proposed by GR and seconded by MM.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

4.1 There was no financial report given as BT was not present at the meeting.

4.2 Verona clarified that the decision on the first round application to the Coastal Communities Fund would be made at the end of June 2014.

4.3 Polytunnels: GT noted that some nets are up. VS explained that there might be an opportunity for some volunteers from the United World Colleges trip to Unst who could come and help with the polytunnels. VS and GT to follow up.

4.4 Director's training: this is confirmed for Monday 9th June, 6-9pm in Unit 1 and VS asked the Directors present to confirm their attendance.

5. NORTHERN LIGHTS BISTRO

VS noted that she had been working on a framework for the business plan and collating all the research to date. Support and advice had been made available through Su Cooper at HIE, via Fiona Stirling. Discussion followed around the legal and financial implications including that of insurance, securing a tenant and contract, making loan repayments etc. The group considered undertaking a full and proper assessment of the business proposal and having surveys done. The discussion then turned into a vote by Board on whether the project should be progressed or not. The majority voted in favour of not pursuing the purchase of the Bistro. It was agreed that there were too many risks involved for the company and that despite acting upon community aspirations, there was not enough interest locally to secure a tenancy. It was agreed to make available all the relevant information collated on the Bistro to anyone approaching UP in the future with an enquiry about the business. VS to update the owners and HIE with this decision.

6. WASTE MANAGEMENT /RECYCLING PROJECT

VS explained that UP have been awarded £2576 from the SIC Community Development Fund as per the application. Discussion ensued around how best to provide and manage the trial skips, waste, their locations and opening times etc. The group thought it might be an idea to work closely with Barrack Stores: GT/JM to contact Barbara Priest to discuss options.

7. LDO REPORT

The report is attached to these Minutes.

VS confirmed the finalised report from the technical options appraisal had been received (for the community broadband project); to be distributed to the Directors. Discussions are taking place with CBS regarding funds for a learning journey to the B4RN project in Lancashire.

VS explained that an application had been submitted to the CARES Infrastructure and Innovation Fund to undertake an energy audit.

8. AOCB

GT mentioned that support for the CURE (communities united for rural education) march in Lerwick on Saturday 7th June would be welcomed.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is Tuesday 1st July 2014, 6.30pm in Unit 1.