

Unst Partnership Ltd

MINUTES OF A MONTHLY MEETING HELD IN UNIT 1, HAGDALE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE ON Monday 30th March 2015 at 4pm.

PRESENT

Sarah McBurnie
Jane Macaulay
Minnie Mouatt
Gordon Thomson (Chair)
Steven Swan

IN ATTENDANCE

Fiona Stirling
Bridgette Thomason

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

GT welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted from Susan Edwards-Horton, Paul Thomson, George Rodger, Megan Burns and Frances Browne

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING [26/01/2015] AND MATTERS ARISING

GT confirmed that Tom Morton has been appointed Tourism Development Officer starting 1.4.15. TM is to be working on the map as a priority so as to get it distributed early in the visitor season.

BT & GT had a conference call with the Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) to clarify budgets. The fund will be spread over 3 financial years and BT explained how the budgets & contracts would work. CCF will be monitoring the funds by telephone every 3 months for a report & update. Additionally they may require a case study/photos. UP are also to put the CCF logo on the newsletter, website, map etc.

BT informed the meeting that the lease for Unit 1 Hagdale was until April 2016 but that she had been told this could be extended until December 2016 as funding will be available until then.

Minutes from the meeting on 23rd February 2015 were proposed and seconded.

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

3. HIE funding

The meeting discussed all UP projects currently in hand so as to identify which projects could be taken forward should HIE funding be extended until March 2016

1. Skips: The funding application has been turned down by Scottish Seafarms. UP have now applied to the SIC Community Development Fund. Next step would be for the LDO to revisit all individuals who have expressed an interest in paying towards the skip service. Could use a membership card system. JM suggested a profile and fund raising activity could be a sponsored skip. FS suggested MB and Elspeth Clark (health improvement) might be able to help with this.

2. Recycled waste: (Food waste composter) MB is looking into Big Hannah – it would need to be good quality compost. Frank Strang has offered premises at Saxa Vord. FS, MB & Eriskay Associates consultant have met. Now waiting for report from him to see if this project might be viable.

3. Renewables: Ross Gazey has completed the study into using renewables locally i.e. in a number of public buildings. He supplied costings for the provision of solar panels and/or turbines. UP could provide the turbines and then have the FITS (for community benefit) at the same time

as the buildings were supplied with cheap electricity. However it was agreed that the organisations might take a loan & erect their own turbines so as to collect their own FITS. It was now up to the the various groups in charge of these buildings to decide on how they want to procede.

4. Community Broadband (Ni4cb): there is not much happening at the moment and Robert Thomson is keeping a watchful eye for any progress. It will be necessary to see the full implementation of Broadband through a government initiative (HIE/BT) before it will be possible to see where the gaps are. There may only be very small areas not covered – we will have to wait & see.

5. CARES hydrogen project: There is a bid into CARES (Community And Renewable Energy Scheme) for UP to fund a feasibility study into whether it would be viable to erect a large, off grid turbine to produce oxygen, nitrogen and hydrogen. This would then be used as a fuel supply for cars, buses and possibly ferries. The Study is to be completed by February 2016. We will hear whether this is to be funded sometime next month.

6. Discussion over the funding of office overheads. The photocopier is badly needing replaced but t will depend on whether we have enough in reserves to replace it.

7. Possible Halligarth NTS project – UP is one of the project partners for support & promotion. Funding would be from the Heritage Lottery Fund. At present NTS and the Shetland Amenity Trust are keen to go ahead with the project but it will cost approx. £1.2M. A bid is being made to the Heritage Lottery fund and the parties should hear by December.

8. Keeping the community up to date – newsletters etc.

4. Financial report

BT provided FS with UP financials for consideration in the process of HIE possibly extending funding.

FS was also provided with information on targets; membership numbers; and the community engagement plan.

5. Destination North Isles

FS told the directors that there would be 2 tourism meetings concentrating on the North Isles. These would be in Belmont House on 15th April 5.15pm-8.30pm and then in Cullivoe Hall on 28th April 5.45pm – 8.45pm. Everyone was welcome.

7. Date of Next Meeting

AGM will be on Wednesday 29th April at 7pm in the Baltasound Hall Library.