

# Unst Partnership Ltd

## MINUTES OF A MONTHLY MEETING HELD IN UNIT 1, HAGDALE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE ON TUESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> MAY 2014 AT 6.30PM

### PRESENT

Colin Edwards-Horton  
Susan Edwards-Horton  
George Rodger  
Sarah McBurnie  
Minnie Mouatt  
Gordon Thomson (Chair)  
Paul Thomson

### IN ATTENDANCE

Verona Shaw  
Frances Browne

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

Gordon welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular the new Directors – Colin, Susan and Sarah.

Apologies from Jane Macaulay and Bridgette Thomason (annual leave).

It was noted that Chris Dumont stepped down at the recent AGM as he is no longer a Director on the Board.

### **2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes from the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 were proposed by MM and seconded by GT.

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 enquired if the new 2014 Unst Map was available. VS explained that the order had not arrived despite several attempts to find out where and what the delay was. VS to follow up.

VS had spoken with Maree Hay regarding the SIC shredding equipment that was available but has yet to contact Maggie Sandison.

Polytunnels: GT noted the need for another meeting with the polytunnels tenants and to arrange putting the two covers on. The rental price for this year was discussed and it was agreed to keep it the same as last year. GT to speak with JM and SM.

### **4. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

There were no notices received from present office bearers intimating to step down.

Chairman: PT proposed Gordon Thomson, seconded by SM and accepted.

Vice Chair: in the absence of Steve Swan, current Vice Chairman, his continued position was proposed by SM and seconded by PT.

Secretary: GR proposed Paul Thomson, seconded CEH and accepted.

## 5. FINANCIAL REPORT

There was no financial report given as BT was on annual leave.

Verona highlighted the recent FIT claim amount and summarised the funding applications that had been submitted to the Tudor Trust, Coastal Communities Fund and SIC Community Development Fund. The latter two await a response.

VS also asked the Directors to decide on a time for the Board's roles and responsibilities training session which is to be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

GT and VS explained that Graham & Sibbald had been in touch to let UP know that the unit will likely have External Cladding insulation taking place later in the year. This will hopefully reduce the current heating bill.

## 6. NORTHERN LIGHTS BISTRO

The potential Bistro project was again brought to the table after recent correspondence from the owners offering the property at the price of UP's last valuation. GT explained that after enquiring about taking a lease for this summer season, a suitable tenant could not be found and UP had declined this option. The Directors then discussed how the Bistro could be purchased and what would be needed to form a business plan. VS to work with HIE to gain business planning support and funding advice. Conversation ensued around grant funding, loans and repayments, how to run the property, securing a long term tenant and the associated business risks. VS to collate all the research and options discussed to date, and begin a business plan.

## 7. TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

VS explained that an application had been submitted to the Coastal Communities Fund for a project titled 'Unst Tourism Development.' This would be a two year project involving the appointment of a Tourism Development Officer who would develop tourism initiatives on the island, facilitate new and existing partnership working in the sector and be a one stop shop for information and tourism provision. This is a stage 1 application and progression to the next stage will be known by the end of June 2014. If this project is awarded it would begin in Jan 2015.

## 8. LDO REPORT

A report had been distributed previously. VS explained the present situation with the technical options appraisal received for the community broadband project and the associated challenges and decisions to consider for future development. In addition, an update was passed on from NTS regarding the developments at Halligarth which are on-going.

## 9. AOCB

GT and VS explained that a meeting had taken place with the **Shetland Credit Union** with regard to a satellite office being based in Unst. The importance of gauging interest, need and demand was discussed and how an office could operate out of Unit 1 and voluntarily managed by UP. It was agreed to work with SCU to publicise the service and then consider recruiting volunteers if there was enough demand locally. We thought a "Money Advice Night" might attract people along. Jeff Goddard, head of SCU, is an appointed Money Advisor.

MM enquired about the renewables project and VS explained that an energy audit could be undertaken externally if UP were awarded funding from the Energy Savings Trust's Infrastructure and Innovation fund for example. There might also be an opportunity to apply for research in to the potential for a hydro-electric project on Unst. VS to follow up.

SM produced a report/information pack on Tesla Quantum Energy Generators and suggested UP explore the installation of one of these. Colin expressed an interest to look at the materials.

MM mentioned that Unst would be visited by a cyclist who is covering the length of the UK and thought there might be an opportunity to support this charity event and increase the profile of Unst. Due to the short timescale (5 days) it was agreed that this was not possible on this occasion and also as the event was already underway.

## 10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**The next meeting is Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014, 6.30pm in Unit 1.**