

Unst Partnership Ltd

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE BALTASOUND HALL, LIBRARY ROOM ON TUESDAY, 23rd APRIL 2013 AT 8.00PM

PRESENT

Murray Brown, Frances Browne, Chris Dumont, Alison Foyster, Dick Foyster, John Gill, Cheryl Jamieson, Jane Macaulay, Minnie Mouatt, Nanning van Mulken, George Rodger, Steve Swan, Gordon Thomson (Chair), Paul Thomson, Catriona Waddington.

IN ATTENDANCE

Verona Shaw, Bridgette Thomason.

1. APOLOGIES & PROXIES

Gordon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies received from Paula Goddard and Maggie Reyner.

No proxies received.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

Minutes of the previous AGM on 17th April 2012 had been circulated and were taken as read and adopted. Proposed by: Murray Brown, seconded by Paul Thomson.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Gordon presented the Chairman's report (attached as Appendix 1) and this was discussed and approved by those present.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

A financial report to 31st March 2013 had been circulated to Directors before the meeting and Bridgette gave an update on the financial situation, including Feed in Tariff income, asset transfers 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.

5. SPECIAL RESOLUTION

The members were asked to consider and if thought fit, pass the Special Resolution to adopt the proposed changes in the new Articles of Association. Gordon read out to those present the relevant sections of the document to enable Unst Partnership to become an eligible community body under the provisions of the Land Reform Scotland Act and also to update the charitable aims and objectives (see Appendix 2). The motion was carried by a show of hands of 12 members.

6. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

It was also explained that every Director does not need to stand down and be re-elected on this occasion as it is not required by the Partnership's constitution.

Those present were reminded that Dave Howitt stood down as a Director earlier in the year.

Gordon intimated that Maggie Reyner had voiced her wish to step down as a Director.

Nominations for Directorship were received for Chris Dumont and George Rodger.

Election of Directors then followed:

Chris Dumont -

Proposed by: John Gill

Seconded by: Alison Foyster

George Rodger -

Proposed by: Paul Thomson

Seconded by: Murray Brown

It was agreed to elect office bearers at the next meeting of the Partnership and anyone interested in joining the Board as a co-opted Director was asked to contact Gordon.

7. AOCB

Suggestions for development and in support of on-going projects were noted as follows:

- A subsidiary company or new business idea using bicycles and old car alternators to produce local energy that could be used and stored. You would cycle and generate electricity which would be used in your house/business/school to save on energy bills whilst improving health and fitness. Research link with/or Institute of Technology in Wales.
- Renewable energy project (wind turbines) linked to Baltasound Junior High School. Consideration of any island development connecting with BJHS to support its future and keeping it central in the islands development.
- Shetland Amenity Trust's Environmental Award; could this be an Unst wide project, not linked to the Voar Redd Up and involving the wider community potentially with a recognised status.
- Creating a map of Unst which highlights 'themed' trails such as archaeology, historical sites, geology etc. and involves the passing on of information across generations through partnership working with BJHS pupils, Unst Heritage Trust and Geopark Shetland for example.

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

APPENDIX 1

Unst Partnership Ltd – Chairman’s Report – 23rd April 2013

Unst Partnership have taken on 12 new members in the last year, increasing membership to 78, roughly a seventh of the adult population. That is reasonably good but we would like to increase it over the next year to 100.

We have sent out two Newsletters since Verona took over from our outgoing LDO (Local Devt Officer) Hannah Eynon in September. Thanks to both for their work over the past year. We have 7 Directors on the board, three new faces - Dave Howitt, Murray Brown and Steve Swan, now vice chair. Dave resigned midway through the year but put in a lot of hours to assist us in that time.

We have altered our Articles of Association to allow the Partnership to have a more modern constitution, allowing for Right to Buy status if it were ever needed and for Unst Community Council representation on our Board.

The Tourist Map proved very popular and has been reprinted for this year in greater quantity (from 2.5 K to 5K copies). Thanks to Ted Harrison for the design and Hannah, Verona and Steve for their work in bringing in grant funding and advertising.

Continuing the Tourism theme, we have been involved in helping Chas Hollis set up the “Walkers are Welcome” site for visitors, as well as assisting consultations over the SNH information site at Burrafirth and at Halligarth House and woods.

We also had some talks with Marvin Smith of the SIC over improving Broadband coverage in the Uyeasound district. We are awaiting news of the Fetlar project before continuing with this.

We finally received Feed in Tariff (FIT) income for our wind turbine but decided to scrap the other one as it was going to cost too much to insure and repair. This has been a long saga but we will now receive an estimated £1000 a year from the remaining working turbine.

The polytunnels continue to be used, with 5 out 6, possibly now all 6 being occupied. We are trying to keep the costs to users as low as possible (currently £30 plus VAT a year) although insurance and replacing covers was costly after last winter’s gales. With netting and more protection, the tunnels have survived this winter quite successfully. Thanks to Jane Macaulay and URGE members for their help and advice with these.

With a local donation, we brokered a 6 month lease of the vacant Northern Lights Bistro. The Bistro’s fortunes were mixed but it did stay open as a tourist facility last summer. We are unable to secure further funding and the property is currently empty this summer, although is still on the market.

We are not much further forward with a community wind turbine but are still keen to find a site and explore feasibility, given enough community support. This formed part of the Community consultation tonight at the earlier session. Wind turbines are not universally popular but they are a good potential income source for community groups if the community itself is willing to support them.

I would like to thank Verona, Bridgette our Admin Assistant and the Directors for their support over the year. We have secured funding for one more year but our three year contract expires in 2014 and we will have to show that we have a good case for further funding, as well as trying to increase income, to secure our future beyond that point.

Gordon M. Thomson
Chairman

APPENDIX 2

Extracts from Unst Partnership's Articles of Association for consideration at a Special Resolution

PURPOSES	
4	<p>The Company has been formed to benefit the community of Unst as defined by the postcode units:</p> <p>ZE2 9DL ZE2 9DN ZE2 9DP ZE2 9DR ZE2 9DS ZE2 9DT ZE2 9DU ZE2 9DW ZE2 9DX ZE2 9DY ZE2 9DZ ZE2 9EA ZE2 9EB ZE2 9ED ZE2 9EE ZE2 9EF ZE2 9EH ZE2 9EJ ZE2 9EQ ZE2 9TA ZE2 9TP ZE2 9TN ZE2 9TW ZE2 9UT ZE2 9XL</p> <p>("the Community"), with the Purposes listed in the sub-clauses hereto ("the Purposes"), to be exercised following the principles of sustainable development (where sustainable development means development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs), namely:</p>
4.1	To manage community land and associated assets for the benefit of the Community and the public in general.
4.2	To provide, or assist in providing, recreational facilities, and/or organising recreational activities, which will be available to members of the Community and public at large with the object of improving the conditions of life of the Community.
4.3	To advance community development, including urban or rural regeneration within the Community.
4.4	To advance the education of the Community about its environment, culture, heritage and/or history.
4.5	To advance environmental protection or improvement including preservation, sustainable development and conservation of the natural environment, the maintenance, improvement or provision of environmental amenities for the Community and/or the preservation of buildings or sites of architectural, historic or other importance to the Community;