**Unst Partnership Board Meeting minutes**

**7pm, Wednesday 4th October 2021 at the Baltasound Hall**

**Present:** Gordon Thomson, Sarah McBurnie, George Rodger, Frances Browne, Di Hervey, Don Craig, Kathleen Johnson.

**Welcome & Apologies:** Apologies from June Harrison, Joan Bailey, Colin Edwards-Horton, Susan Edwards-Horton. Peter away.

**Matters arising from last Minutes:**  Minute of 1st September approved (George, Sarah).

*Grass cutting at Halligarth, NTS* The contractorhas been asked to submit an invoice for work done so far. Remainder to be completed Feb/March 22.

*Finance Report* – Bridgette to submit later this month.

*Participatory Budget event* – we decided to hold this on Tuesday 30th November, Covid rules permitting, with new title, the “UP2U” project. Board meeting on Mon 22nd November to discuss arrangements. **Gordon** to advertise and send out details to groups. **N.B. *See footnote at end of Minute***

**Shop Report (Kathleen)**

The shop took in £10,850 this year so far and has had 3049 people through the door. Finances are healthy and the number of customers through the door continues to be good. Kathleen is going to update shop posters shortly and advertise for Christmas goods or folk wanting to clear out goods before that. Sarah mentioned that the Scottish Land Fund would be publishing an item online about successful projects and the UP Shop was going to be one of them. Kathleen had noticed a deal on shelving down through Shetland and had registered our interest. It could be useful for the new premises.

**Recycling Centre**

Mike Pennington had done a survey for flora and fauna in the site area but no rare plants were found to be growing there. He will be submitting a full report to Malcolmson Architects (MA). An engineer from Arch Henderson has asked for 6 sample holes to be dug for site inspection and water percolation tests. This has been forwarded to Sandisons. MA will be sending details to SEPA after this.

The Crown Estate has agreed to extend the time limit for Peter’s contract until March 22 as he is away at sea just now. No further money will be granted but it means that the work can be moved on into the New Year.

Frances queried whether we need a more detailed Business Plan for the next stage of the project. We may be able to get support from SIC’s Business Gateway. It may be possible to get a graduate placement post to investigate and write grant applications for the next stage of the project.

**UnstFest Survey**

In the past the UP shop had provided a venue as a secondhand shop for four days of Unstfest. We completed the survey form based on this and were happy to do much the same in future.

**UP Hairst Newsletter**

The next Unst newsletter is about to go out. The final draft was corrected and approved.

**Skip Scheme**

The last Skip day was relatively quiet but the next one on 30th October is the last for this year and likely to be busier. Some new members had signed up, giving us nearly 50 members in total.

**AOCB**

Joan sent photos of a community workshop as an example of what UP could aim for.

***OSCR*** We have been asked by OSCR to delete one of the aims on our Constitution/Memo and Arts as it was no longer considered acceptable to them. Directors unanimously agreed to delete 4.1 “To manage community land and associated assets for the benefit of the Community and the public in general.” and Gordon will send the amended copy to OSCR and Companies House.

Meeting closed at 8.20p. **Next meeting date: Monday 22nd November, 7pm Baltasound Hall.**

**Footnote:** *Only 4 applications were received for the UP2U project. We therefore decided to allocate £500 to each of them and cancel the event on 30th November as a) it was not necessary and b) there will still concerns about Covid and indoor events.*