**Unst Partnership LTD**

**Minutes of Directors meeting held at Unit 1, Hagdale Industrial Estate on**

**Tuesday 13th December 2016 at 6.30pm**

**Present**

Gordon Thomson, Sarah McBurnie, Jane Macaulay, Alison Foyster, George Rodger.

**In attendance**

Bridgette Thomason, Admin Officer; Frances Browne, Community Development

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Gordon welcomed everyone to the meeting and passed around agendas and minutes of the previous meeting. Apologies were noted from Susan Edwards-Horton.

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting –** approved by Jane and Gordon

**3. Matters Arising:** See main agenda below.

**4. Skip scheme** – Gordon explained how on the past two Skip Days, just one Skip was available with another for metal provided by Shetland Amenity Trust. This had been sufficient. (In September and October we had paid for 2 Skips but only actually filled one. We received a small reduction on the bill as a result.) It had therefore agreed to have an extra skip day in December to compensate for the fact that the November day only provided one skip. We only have one skip day left, on 18th February, and it was agreed to order one Skip for that day as we were still going to be about £750 down on the budget of £5400. The deficit would have to be met from the reserves. Thanks to all Directors again for turning out to assist with Skip days.

**5. Hydrogen Project:** Gordon had met with PURE Energy reps, Head Teacher Paul Thomson and Gareth Norquouy of SIC to look at a possible heat/power source for Baltasound School based on Hydrogen. This would involve a medium sized Wind Turbine producing hydrogen fuel to power the School buildings. The SIC were supportive did not have any funding to put towards such a project. However, the school boilers are oil-fired and are quite old, so a demonstration scheme could work there. PURE approached North Yell Development Corporation about using some of their 30% grid constrained electricity surplus; but as they are still implementing the project, it was too early for them to discuss this. Gordon agreed with PURE to look at Local Energy Scotland funding for this project in the New Year.

**6. Coastal Communities Fund tourism project.** This comes to an end on December 31st with most of the funding already accounted for. It has been very successful, with several out of season projects supported (Writers Weekend, FestiYell, Wool week) as well as promotion through local media, national media and Social Media. The “Paths for All” grant claim has been submitted and the work on improving the Coastal path between Clibberswick and Norwick will be completed in the next month.

**7. Future Funding**

We have applied to HIE and LEADER for future funding for a single Tourism Development Worker post; neither are willing to fund two posts. A decision from LEADER will not be made until 25th January and there was some discussion as to whether we could keep both Tourism Development staff members until we knew the position. Directors were unwilling to commit the Reserves to paying for two salaries for a further month as the posts were only Fixed Term Contracts until Dec 31st. However, if there was any additional work to be completed as part of CCF or as part of the HIE/LEADER applications , this would be considered. It was unclear at this point whether the post would be advertised externally or internally; if advertised externally, more time would elapse before the post was filled.

**7. Financial Report**. Bridgette reported that Reserves remain healthy with an unrestricted balance of £13,834.83.

The Current unrestricted reserve balance outwith grant restricted funds (Developing Unst Tourism, Developing North Isles tourism, Skips & Paths for All) – stands at £15,020.28. With the unrestricted UP's reserves, there are commitments for the following: Unst Map - £802.12, Yell Map - £383.33.

There are also committed funds for: Unst tourism - £810.00 and Yell tourism - £728.33, although these could form part of the £10,000 of the Reserves that are presently committed to the future North Isles Tourism project. This is approximately our 10% contribution, with HIE and LEADER jointly providing the other 90%.

As this was possibly Bridgette’s last meeting, Gordon took the opportunity to thank her for her work for the Partnership over the years. Bridgette pointed out that when she took over, the reserves stood at £488. The fact that they are in such a heathy state today is largely due to her diligent work in keeping us on track financially.

***Footnote from Gordon:*** *The HIE/LEADER Project applications included mention of a £10 North Isles Tourism Providers fee, which will include access to Tourism services, an email newsletter and first chance to advertise on the Tourist maps for Unst and Yell. We feel this is a modest sum but would show support from NI Tourism providers for the project.*

**AOCB** Presentation to B. Thomason

**10. Date of next meeting:**  TBC after the LEADER meeting of 25th January 2017.