

Unst Partnership Ltd

MINUTES OF A MONTHLY MEETING HELD IN UNIT 1, HAGDALE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE ON TUESDAY 1st APRIL 2014 AT 6.30PM

PRESENT

Chris Dumont
Minnie Mouatt
Steven Swan
Gordon Thomson (Chair)

IN ATTENDANCE

Verona Shaw
Bridgette Thomason
Frances Browne
Paula Goddard

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

GT welcomed everyone to the meeting

Apologies from Jane Macaulay, George Rodger, Paul Thomson and Fiona Stirling.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from the meeting on 24th February 2014 were proposed by SS and seconded by CD.

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 queried the status of the 2014 Unst Map. The amendments and new adverts for the Unst Tourist Map for 2014 were noted as underway. There is one clarification surrounding a tourist attraction on the map that is outstanding. VS noted there were now only two spaces available on the adverts side.

VS to contact Maggie Sandison and Maree Hay regarding the SIC shredding equipment that was available.

It was noted that the allotmenters had a meeting recently and the two new covers will be used. The group then discussed the changes to be made to the charges for polytunnels with and without covers and how to further fund this service/equipment in the future. BT/VS to update polytunnel agreements and invoices. This discussion will be carried forward to the next meeting. VS also to chase up the replacement of the trailer socket with P&T Coaches.

4. Paula Goddard, Report 2 UWM project

GT welcomed Paula to the meeting and summarised the background to the second part of the Unst Waste Management project and Report 2. Report 2 had previously been distributed to Directors and Paula invited questions from the Board on the content of the report.

Skips – the group discussed how the Walls Development Group tackled this problem and considered how to place one skip as a pilot project and ask for donations locally. In the longer term, could skips be sited regularly and how would this be managed and funded. The role of local volunteers was discussed.

PG left the meeting at 8.15pm.

5. SUMMARY – MEETING WITH FIONA STIRLING

GT summarised the discussion and outcomes from the Director's meeting with Fiona Stirling from HIE. These related to securing core-running funding from other sources in 2014/2015 and negotiating with HIE and their contribution, preparing an exit strategy, the option of reducing staff hours, redundancy procedures and costs. Funding sources including the Coastal Communities Fund, Climate Challenge Fund and support from local companies was discussed.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

6.1 BT's summarised the financial report distributed via email previously and reported that the core running for the end of the three year funding agreement is within budget.

New contracts have been prepared for the LDO and FO; these need amended to reflect the change to NIC Employers contribution which was recently announced. BT also noted that as core running costs are only covered for the next 15 months the Board should be aware that the insurance cover was renewed with a three year undertaking. This should be reviewed at the end of the year.

7. NORTHERN LIGHTS BISTRO

The opportunity to purchase the Bistro was brought to the table after recent correspondence from the owners offering the property at the price of UP's last valuation. The Directors discussed how to finance this buy and it was suggested that a lease period this year would be advantageous in supplying trading figures and help support any applications. GT to enquire leasing with the owners. As community aspirations have driven this project to date, the Partnership remain keen to try and secure the opening of the property as a food and drink outlet. The Directors were also keen to find out if the public sale price would also be brought in-line with this to allow other potential buyers to come forward. GT to follow up with owners. Discussion followed on how to find tenants and interested parties to ensure the best was made of this potential shortened season. On-going discussions needed to progress this in a timely fashion as the tourist season has begun.

8. LDO REPORT

A report had been distributed previously. VS confirmed the actions to be undertaken for the waste management project. The AGM was discussed and it was agreed to promote this as widely as possible to encourage new members and recruit new Directors. The group agreed it would be beneficial to host a display of local recycled arts and crafts produce alongside a UWM project update, before the AGM (at 7pm). Directors to invite local producers. VS and BT to prepare AGM notices.

9. AOCB

Minnie proposed that the promotion of Unst and tourism was developed and this could be addressed by having a Tourism Development Officer in post. Services could be provided by the Officer at a cost or via membership fees as a means of income generation. VS and MM to gather more details and write up a project proposal that could support a funding application for this. SS reminded the group that income generating projects that do not require external grant funding must be considered and brought to the table at future meetings. To be carried on to the next agenda.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is the AGM – Wednesday 23rd April 2014, 7.30pm in the Reading Room of the Baltasound Hall.