

# Unst Partnership Ltd

MINUTES OF A MONTHLY MEETING HELD IN UNIT 1, HAGDALE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE  
ON Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2014 AT 6.30PM

## PRESENT

Chris Dumont  
Minnie Mouatt  
George Rodger  
Steven Swan  
Gordon Thomson (Chair)  
Paul Thomson

## IN ATTENDANCE

Verona Shaw  
Bridgette Thomason  
Frances Browne  
Paula Goddard

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

GT welcomed everyone to the meeting

Apologies from Jane Macaulay and Fiona Stirling.

### **2. CORE FUNDING**

GT summarised the offer of support from HIE which offers 100% funding for the next 15 months. The undertaking has been signed and returned to HIE. Discussion followed on how to fund the gap over the next three year period. VS to submit an application to the Tudor Trust and continue to search for further funding. The lease for the Unit was talked over and BT to find out if UP can withdraw from the lease early (6 months' notice) if core funding cannot be secured beyond June 2015. The possibility of alternative office premises arose. SS suggested contacting local businesses and the wider community to see if donations could be gathered to support the buying of Unit 1. This will be discussed further at the next Directors meeting. Project led funding was also considered.

### **3. Paula Goddard, Report 1 UWM project**

GT welcomed Paula to the meeting and summarised the background to the Unst Waste Management project and Report 1. Report 1 had previously been distributed to Directors and Paula ran through the results of the doorstep survey and summed up the main outcomes: a recycling centre on Unst would be welcomed, the loss of the rural community skip service is significant, a kerbside uplift scheme would be used and the SIC Bulky Uplift service has not been extensively used in Unst. One of the main questions from the community surrounds the cost implications of the potential new services; this is to be discussed in Report 2. Paula explained that these main outcomes were the basis for the second Report which will research and work up four potential business opportunities for the Partnership to develop surrounding waste management on Unst. The four ideas will include: skip service, recycling centre, plastic recycling scheme and an anaerobic digester. The Directors and FB asked Paula to clarify some points with regards to the next stage of the project and gave feedback on some aspects of the charts used to display the results.

MM enquired about the paper shredding equipment and scheme that had been mentioned recently in the local media; can UP be involved with this? VS to contact Maggie Sandison at SIC and contact NCDC for more information.

MM left the meeting at 7.30pm.  
PG left the meeting at 7.45pm.

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

Minutes from the meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014 were proposed by GR 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.

#### **5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTE (NOT ON THE MAIN AGENDA)**

SS queried the re-printing of the Unst Tourist Map for 2014. The Board agreed on a new layout and price structure for the adverts on the reverse side of the map. VS to contact local companies and organisations inviting them to re-advertise. All charges are to include VAT. Some changes to be made to the map; VS contact Ted Harrison.

#### **6. LDO REPORT**

The report was circulated and VS described the current status of the Hagdale wind turbine and the inverter based in Unit 5. The group discussed changing the electrical connection to Unit 1 in order for UP to benefit from the electricity generated by the turbine. Several implications surrounding the office property, Unit lease, associated ground works and connections, cost and future status of UP after June 2015 were considered. It was agreed for VS to look into potential costs for the work and for ways of financing this. Directors to include this point for discussion when next meeting with HIE and creating a risk register.

FB suggested investigating any funds available through SIC Economic Development regarding environment/renewables projects.

#### **7. FINANCIAL REPORT**

6.1 BT's summarised the financial report distributed via email previously and reported that the core running is presently within budget.

The insurance cover was renewed with a three year undertaking.

The UWM contract is due to end in 2.5 weeks and there may be a slight underspend.

The Workforce Development Plan has not been spent and BT has requested this be taken forward and re-calendarised.

FIT payments continue to be healthy amounts of income and BT picked up on the enquiry about investing some of this money into a savers account. BT to do a cash flow to see if this would be possible.

#### **8. PROJECTS**

VS gave a brief update on the broadband and renewables projects, as per LDO report. Broadband: three tender proposals were received for the technical options appraisal and these will be scored in a meeting on Monday and the contract awarded next week. The next step will be to gather interested local members of all the communities and set up and new organisation who will deliver the project and secure finance for the infrastructure etc.

There has been no development with potential renewable energy projects since the last meeting but VS has been offered a travel bursary to the CARES conference in Glasgow on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014; Directors confirmed VS attendance at this event. Micro wind and anaerobic digesters to be the focus of enquiries.

#### **9. AOCB**

Polytunnels: GT explained (in the absence of Jane Macaulay) that four of the six polytunnels had covers on but they have all been damaged in the recent gales. The Board agreed that UP cannot afford to replace the covers and that a meeting needs to be arranged with the allotmenters. JM and GT to follow up. It was noted that one allotmenteer does not wish to continue with the rental and the last polytunnel remains allocated to a new resident. Discussion followed around the

continuation of polytunnels on the current site and the possibility of selling or moving them. BT to check the details of the grant conditions as to whether we can sell the assets or not. GT also noted a new padlock is need for the equipment container.

Trailer: VS explained that a new trailer socket is needed on the trailer as presently rust and weathering means that the trailer cannot be connected to a towing vehicle's electrics. VS to contact P&T Coaches for a replacement part.

VS noted that there was enquiry from member of the community about UP hosting a Facebook page for Unst producers; specifically those operating on a small scale and to encourage producers to market their goods together The Directors felt that UP were not in a position to be able to dedicate time to managing this and could another community group take this on or a group of producers get together to develop this idea.

<b>10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>
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It was suggested that the Directors meet with Fiona Stirling (HIE) to discuss strategic plans and considerations for the next 15 months and thereafter.

The dates for the AGM and next Directors meeting were not set.

VS/BT to follow up on dates.