**Unst Partnership Ltd**

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

**Thursday 1st June, 2017 at 7pm**

**Present**

Gordon Thomson, George Rodger, Colin and Susan Edwards-Horton, Norma Jamieson, Di Hervey.

***Attending:*** Frances Browne, Community Development SIC.

**cc.** Unst CC and North Isles Councillors Ryan Thomson, Alec Priest, Duncan Simpson.

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Gordon welcomed everyone to the meeting and passed around agendas and minutes of the previous meeting. Apologies were noted from Jane Macaulay, Les Sinclair and Sarah McBurnie.

**Appointment of Office Bearers after AGM**

**Chair** – Gordon, Nominated by Colin, seconded Susan; **Vice Chair** – Sarah, nom by Gordon, Sec Norma.

**Company Secretary:** George, nom. By Colin, Sec Gordon. **Admin/Treasurer** Still no appointment. Bridgette doing it at present but wishes to step down. Post to be advertised again. It could be done remotely i.e. from someone in Fetlar or Yell.**(Gordon to advertise)**

We discussed ways to spread the burden of the Chair. Directors could follow up on Projects they are interested in. Norma mentioned recycling wool for duvets, pillows. Colin – dry ski slope. Any project would need an outline Business plan and a Feasibility study.

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

**3. Matters Arising:**

* ***The “Paths for All” project*** has been completed by the contractor, Andrew Taylor. Colin pointed out that the Uyeasound-Muness route was needing repairs and will contact Kevin Serginson, SIC.
* ***Collaster Dig Project.*** NTS are looking for local volunteers for this. The project runs 10th-19th July, with a break on Friday 14th July for a “Time Tea” at 11am in Unst Heritage Centre.
* ***Walking Guides and Unst Cycle Hire.*** Now at the Saxa Vord Officers Mess Café area
* ***North Isles News column –*** now being done by Hannah Eynon. Gordon was doing this when Hannah was away.
* ***Unst Tourist Map –*** the free edition of this map has now gone out to shops, etc. additional copies available at UP office. Copies to be delivered to Tourist Office in Lerwick and Northlink **(Gordon)**

**4. Purchase of Unit 1 for Second Hand Shop**. Directors discussed this as a way to reduce overheads. We need to show evidence of community demand for a Second Hand shop. Paula Goddard’s study in 2014 had some data on this. We could also gather info from the Barrack Stores experience and by visiting other such shops across Shetland. We would need to be mindful of prices charged in other Charity shops. Fair Trade goods could also be sold here as the present agent is giving this up. A Hall meeting was thought to be unproductive but we could get views at Community events- Farmers Market, etc. We could also try a “pop-up” event in a local Hall. If the project went ahead, what would we do with the income? Would it be purely to keep the Office going or could we have a project in mind? We looked at the aims of UP and it would meet “managing community assets” for the benefit of the community, “advancing environmental protection” by reducing landfill and “advance community development” by providing a useful service. In future, it may be possible that we do some Recycling or “Up Cycling”.

Gordon explained that we could be eligible for the Community Asset Transfer scheme and would approach the owners, HIE, with that in mind. We could also apply to the Community Land Fund for assistance with purchase. **Gordon and Sarah to approach HIE; Di and Norma to look at Mary’s Shop, Yell; Colin & Susan – Barrack Stores; Gordon – COPE scrapstore; Frances offered to draw up a question sheet for potential users.**

**5. Polytunnels.** The Container at the School has now been sold, with remaining contents now in UP office. We are going to get Nigel Stickle to put a fence around the three existing tunnels. We undertook to take down the fourth tunnel frame as the School plan to use that area for a polycrub. There was some discussion as to whether we need to remove the underground plates that supported the frames.

**6. Skips Scheme.** We have received 32 Annual Sub payments so far and hope to get in at least 40 by the beginning of June. The Skip scheme should then be able to go ahead, with 6 Skip Saturdays through the year. Annual Subs kept at £50, one-off deposits kept at £20. Cheques payable to “Unst Partnership Ltd” or by BACS to A/C no. 00855520, sort Code 80-08-82. First Skip day – Sat 3rd June.

**7. Financial report**. Reserves currently about £7,000 with £7900 in addition for Collaster Dig project. Our running costs for the year are approximately £5000 so we do need to generate additional income to keep going.

**8. AOCB** Wind turbine. Gordon had spoken to PURE who advised that the blades are now 10 years old, much less productive and that new ones could improve the electricity production by 100%. We agreed to get them to install new blades as this would improve FITs payments in the longer term. In return, we would provide some assistance with installing and also with grass cutting around the Estate. The cost (approx.. £2000) would be paid back over a period of time.

**Meeting ended 9.15pm**

**Date of Next Meeting: Unit 1, Hagdale, Baltasound, 7pm, Tuesday 4th July 2017**

*(Meeting was actually postponed until 9th October. GT)*