

Minutes of the A.G.M of Unst Partnership held on 17th November 2010

Present: Kelda Hughson
Liam O'Neill
Jane Macaulay
George Rodger
Chris Dumont
Tony Budge
Anna Niven
Sarah McBurnie
Anne O'Neill
Gordon Thomson
Helen Bradley

Apologies: Rory Tallack, Karen Smith, Paul Thomson, Maggi Reyner, Jim & Minnie Mouat, Steve Gifford, Dave & Jenni Howitt

1. Welcome

Gordon welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Report by Chair on activities of the Unst Partnership

Gordon outlined the findings of the Saxa Vord feasibility study carried out during 2009 and 2010, which recommended that the community find ways to indirectly support the resort through tourism, marketing and job creation. Sub-committees were created for food and drink, tourism, renewable energy and arts and crafts and a number of potential projects are at different stages of development, including one for a Trading Company that would better market and promote Unst products for the benefit of Unst businesses.

In 2010 UP commissioned the preparation of a Feasibility study for a community-owned spinning mill (possibly based in Uyeasound) that would spin a combination of organic and non-organic local fleece into specialist yarns. Gordon said that the partnership was in the process of consulting with the community about whether or not they think it is a good idea.

Gordon said that since November last year, the Partnership had elected 10 new Directors, and he thanked each of them for their voluntary commitment to the partnership over the last year. Gordon pointed out that it had been a difficult year at times, as much more work was required than originally thought in order to secure the funding to employ a development worker to take forward projects. External agencies and funders had advised that a Community Development Plan should be carried out in Unst that would double-check the community's views on a range of issues. The Partnership felt that they had consulted with the community on a number of ideas, but agreed that more work needed to be done to establish the views and needs of the community, and welcomed the Plan, which is currently underway with the help of the Community Office. The consultation period will end by the end of

February 2011, after which the finished development plan will provide a basis for the Unst Partnership to move forward with projects on behalf of the wider community to benefit Unst's economy,

The Powerdown Project, which employs Mike Smith, is due to come to an end in March 2011. Gordon thanked Mike for his hard work, and outlined the Powerdown key projects; creation of a community allotment scheme at the school, and the current development of a recycling centre at Hagdale. Again, the community's views on this idea are important, and the Partnership would welcome any input.

3. Consideration of the annual accounts

- This year, the Unst Hydrogen car was donated to the Scottish Museum of Transport as it is beyond economic repair. The accounts showed income from a number of funders and charitable sources which paid for the two feasibility studies carried out, and the salary of the Powerdown officer,

4. Reappointment of independent examination Accountants (A9 Partnership) Ltd.

A9 Partnership was re-appointed as accountants to the partnership.
Proposed by Chris Dumont Seconded by Sarah McBurnie

5. Re-election of Directors

Ruth Grainger, Rory Tallack, Anna Niven and Karen Smith stepped down

Re-elected as Directors are:

Kelda Hudson, Paul Thomson, Liam O'Neill, Jane Macaulay,
Gordon Thomson and Maggi Reyner

Office bearers will be elected at the next Unst Partnership meeting. "Anyone with an interest in joining the Board as a Co-opted Director is welcome to notify Gordon at Hamar, Baltasound, Unst (tel 01957 711695) for consideration at the next Directors' Board meeting."

6. Next Meeting

Next Meeting – Monday 13th December BJHS – 7pm

Unst Partnership. Charity Number: SC030039,
Company registration number SC205359