

Minutes of Unst Partnership Meeting
Thursday 19th February at 7pm
Hamar, Baltasound

Present: Gordon Thomson, Chairman
 Maggi Reyner, Treasurer
 Anna Niven, Secretary

Apologies: Brian Hunter

Previous minutes, matters arising

Covered in main agenda

1. Community Powerdown post: Our bid to the Climate Challenge fund had been successful and the post would be advertised in the Times tomorrow. (20th Feb). Essential and desirable criteria were drawn up. It was hoped that interviews would be held in March and someone in post by April. No office is available at present but we could use the Sellafirth Business Centre for lower cost than leasing Unit 1 at Hagdale. Gordon said that there may be premises at Saxa Vord available but mean time the postholder could work from home or Sellafirth. Payroll would be administered from there.

2. Saxa Vord Feasibility Study - At a meeting on 9th December with MAM and the Community Council, it was agreed that UP should apply for funding for this study, before going to the community to seek their views. Gordon had approached Shetland Leader, SIC Economic Devt Unit and the BIG Lottery fund to support this, as it was likely to be in the region of £30,000. We need three quotes before Shetland Leader would consider this and so an advert was being placed in the Times, again on 20th Feb. We would need 3 quotes by the 19th March for funding to be considered. (LEADER had offered 41% funding, subject to their conditions being met.)

3. Train Shetland STEP student - We agreed to apply for this. UP would put in match funding of in order to have a student for 8 weeks in the summer paid £200 per week. It was felt this person could assist the Powerdown Officer in survey work. Only 13 STEP places were available in Shetland - so

there was no guarantee that our bid would succeed. The Posdt would be advertised by TRAIN Shetland and on the Shell Step Programme website.

4.UP website. Paul Thomson had been contacted about setting up an Unst Partnership website, linked to the Unst.org site. He was now working on this and hopes to have it set up in the near future. It would contain news, minutes, documents and links relating to Partnership activity.

5.Office premises - As above, we still have no office premises. Various possibilities were discussed and Gordon would follow them up. In the mean time, Directors were asked to think about possible sites if anywhere became available.

6.Newsletter - a newsletter updating the community on Partnership activities was considered. But with the prospect of a website and the chance to put information to the Times (North Isles news) and the forthcoming North Isles Community newsletter, it was felt that this was unnecessary.

7. AB Associates Report - This has now been completed. It is a study of how grant funding has benefited Unst over the last 12 years. One of the main conclusions considers the activity of the Partnership. It suggests that the Partnership needs to take on more Directors and have a higher profile in the Community if it is to be seen as a genuine "community" organisation. Hopefully the website and the involvement in the Saxa Vord project will help to raise the profile. Finding new Directors - it was suggested that a note on the website could attract people here.

Meeting closed at 9. 05 pm