



A meeting of NCDC was held on: Monday, 1st August 2022, at 7:30pm, at the Ollaberry Hall

Present – Bob McGeady (RM - Chair), Alistair Williamson, Margaret Roberts

In Attendance – Charlotte Slater, Mandy Hunter (MHu), Yoyo Buchet

1. Apologies – Iain Davidson, Harry Haslam, Bill Manson, John Alex Cromarty

2. Approval of Minute – Minutes of meeting on 20th June 2022 were approved by AW and seconded by MR

3. Financial update – BM was absent from the meeting but had emailed CS to apologise for a lack of time to look at bank accounts. He added that CS should go ahead and open a bank account with Al Rayan Bank. Directors present agreed with the suggestion. BM had also suggested via email the need for a procedure for ID/CS to transfer sums required for routine purposes to the current account without the need for director involvement on every occasion.

Action: CS/ID to set up new bank account and work on financial procedure/policy

4. Hillswick shop update – MR gave a short update from JAC that a new assistant manager was in place but there were still some staffing issues. CS added that the next shop meeting is on Thursday 4th August.

5. Nortenergy update – MR reported that sales were slightly below the target for first quarter April-June 2022 but still at a good level. Sales had dropped off which is normal for this time of year and usually take up again September October time. There is an ongoing issue with enquiries for the English hub with people unwilling to pay delivery. Suggested ideas to solve the issue are either to include some of the shipping cost in the price of the Polycrub or averaging the cost. It was causing a stumbling block for the Welsh market especially. RM commented that people probably didn't realise the kits came on the back of an artic lorry. MR continued stating that the biggest number of enquiries and sales are within Shetland who are familiar with the product and there is still lots to do with developing sales further afield. There have been a lot of enquiries from the USA in recent months and MH is in discussion with an ex pat Shetlander based in Canada who is interested in becoming a base for Polycrubs. RM stated it will be interesting to see how things hold up but that meeting 80% for the first quarter is pretty good. MR agreed and stated MH was not confident that they would meet the yearly target but even meeting a similar level as last year would be good.

6. Growing Local Project – YB told the directors that the peerie poly for the Ollaberry waterfront was built and now sitting at Bruckland. YB had attended a meeting last week with the Ollaberry Boating Club and some of the residents which ended with the poly not being

wanted at the shorefront due to health and safety concerns. AW asked who actually owned the land and YB explained that the Ollaberry Boating Club were trustees of the land but didn't own it. She also added that the bench had been well received and they were interested in having more. Going back to the siting of the peerie poly, during the meeting it was suggested to place in the playpark at Runnadale and since the meeting the Ollaberry hall or the Ollaberry Shop were suggested. RM brought up the issue was overall ownership, and it needed to be sited somewhere that a group of people can say this is ours. MHu emailed SIC about the playpark but the contact is currently on annual leave. MHu also stated that insurance could be a problem for the playpark. RM asked whether NCDC should cut their losses and site the poly elsewhere. YB stated it could go to the Stucca site instead as the lease is now sorted. MHu has drafted a letter for Stucca residents with photos and a map of the garden area. MR added that NCDC had now committed to the site at Stucca and the whole point had been to have the poly close to social housing. MHu added that if the peerie poly is not used at Stucca, it can be moved. MR interjected that language in the letter needed a bit of editing before sending it out to residents. MHu gave an update for the latest workshop which had been at Da Barn with 13 people in attendance and there had been a request to repeat the workshop at a later date for people that could not make it. The Growing Local team had also organised a visit to Turrieffield for the North Mainland Growers group but had no take up and felt that there needs to be a relaunch of the group. YB stated the next workshops are around cooking with local produce and preserving produce. MR suggested to advertise on Radio Shetland and RM added to put a sign up at the Hillswick Junction which had worked very well for the recent brunch held at the North Roe Hall. MHu stated that they were planning to create a Shetland growing calendar which will include when to plant, jobs to do etc. that is Shetland specific. Growing Local will work with Turrieffield to create the calendar and share the profits. There will be an art and photograph competition for the calendar which will be launched at the Voe Show. MHu had gotten prices from the Shetland Times for printing the calendar and directors agreed to 400 copies stating that it will likely be popular across Shetland. RM added that it can be reprinted with new pictures each year. MHu stated they want to get them ready for Christmas. MHu said they will have schedules for the produce show, to be held on the 24th August in Hillswick, at the Voe Show as well. The Makers Market will be on the 11th September in Ollaberry and there are 9 tables confirmed so far with Marian Armitage selling her new book and doing a cookery demonstration. MR suggested specifically mentioning fruit and vegetables in the art competition poster, and also that the swap boxes at the shop should be taken in now as they are no longer in use. RM asked if NCDC should be starting to look at grants to continue the project and there was some discussion between the directors of funding streams to look at. MR also said it would be good to look at what has been achieved so far to inform why the project should continue.

7. Old Urafirth School Project – RM told directors that he, AW and CS had met with Colin Gair from Highways at the Council last month and the meeting had been reasonably positive with the end of the road posing the biggest issue. This was followed by a meeting with Paul Harrington from SLF and Fiona Stirling from HIE which had also been a positive meeting with a few things that needed to be done including getting quotations for feasibility studies from architects, getting a more in-depth housing need survey done, and a valuation done. MR asked if another housing need survey was needed since there was data provided from SIC not long ago. RM replied that SLF wanted more up to date figures. RM added that SLF also support a negotiated sale which may be a quicker and slightly easier process than a community asset transfer and SLF meet every 6 weeks to discuss applications. CS has now gotten quotes from 5 architectural firms for carrying out a feasibility survey and Fiona Stirling had sent through a contact for potentially doing a housing need survey.

Action: CS to liaise with SLF

8. Festival 2023 – CS said that next year is the 10th anniversary of Glusstonberry and thought NCDC could have another festival that would run for a week in July 2023 with events spread across the parish. Ideas so far include an eela, sports day, mini music festival, wellbeing day, recycling day, exhibition linked to the crofting app. CS hopes to get the halls involved to help with the organising of specific events. AW said to make sure to miss the Tall Ships weekend.

Action: CS to continue with developing the festival

9. Matters Arising – Nothing further

11. AOCB – The directors discussed a number of changes to the company articles that had been put forward by the SLF to make NCDC eligible for funding. There were a couple of points that the directors agreed more clarity should be sought from DTAS before making changes. RM said that the proposed changes will need to be brought to the next AGM.

Action: CS to contact DTAS and send draft Mem&Arts to SLF

MR said she had been contacted about NCDC/Growing Local being involved in Climate Week which will be held the last week of September. She thought that a focus around recycling would be a strong focal point for NCDC and potentially having an event on a Sunday when Bruckland is open anyway and have an open day in the new shed would be the best thing to do but would need to speak to MH first.

Action: MHu, YB or CS to speak to MH

MR brought up that a large shredder for garden waste had been given to Bruckland for the community to use from Bob and Laura Jamieson however due to the shredder being a dangerous piece of equipment the directors thought it would be better to have it based at Bruckland and the community can take waste there to use. CS showed the directors a quick drawing of the Bruckland compound showing a restructured layout once Polycrub move into the new shed. This included moving furniture into the container that currently has polycarbonate in it, turning the book portacabin round, making a gate in the fence next to the new shed for trucks who may need extra room to turn, building a poly opyl for storing the ebikes in, moving the NCDC office down to Bruckland with space for a community hub, a small tool share library and hopefully a men's shed potentially in the new shed. MR added that after conversations with CS and MH moving the office down to Bruckland seemed like a good idea and also raised the possible need for planning permission. CS said she had spoken to Maree and there are a few items such as a new sign on the shed, the poly opyl, a new noticeboard and moving the Polycrub office most likely need planning permission, so it made sense to do one application for everything. AW agreed. CS added that she hoped a community fridge could also be based at Bruckland but this would need to be outside the compound to be accessible at all times. AW asked whether anymore had been done about getting cameras put up around Bruckland after the vandalism on water pipes during the construction of the shed and having the van sitting in the compound. CS said she wasn't sure but would speak with MH.

Action: CS to speak with MH

CS stated that MH had been speaking with a representative of the Viking windfarm and SSE have a large quantity of wooden crates they want to donate to a charity. It is planned that the crates will be delivered to Bruckland and then groups or individuals can take it away for a small donation. It is a short-term project with the biggest deliveries coming August/September and potentially some smaller amounts in October and November. CS added that SSE had said BAM may also have items such as pipes available but that they had not replied to MH email so far. Directors were in agreement that this was a great idea and would be good publicity for NCDC.

CS said that there was a new creator in residence at the Weaving Shed called Alison who was hoping to have an exhibition towards the end of her stay which coincides with Shetland

Wool Week. Alison had been told that there may still be time to be added to the Wool Week programme so was going to contact the relevant person. She had also in discussion with ID about doing some workshops with the local schools and asked whether NCDC would be willing to provide some funding towards them. CS stated she wasn't sure how much it would be. Directors agreed in principle but wanted to know the figure wanted first.

Action: CS to liase with Alison

CS said she is planning to set up a monthly e-newsletter that will be sent out to all members and will include NCDC news, Growing Local section, Polycrub section Joy French will provide a section about the weather. MR suggested a Hillswick Shop section with RM adding they could have special offers. AW agreed saying Ollaberry shop should be given the opportunity to be in it too.

Action: CS to speak to Ollaberry Shop

CS will be conducting an open space audit for Northmavine, having experience of doing one before, after some the discussions that came out of the consultation days, stating that she thinks SIC are the only local authority who have not conducted one in Scotland.

Action: CS to conduct open space audit

12. Date of Next Meeting – 5th September 2022

Meeting ended: 20:54