



A meeting of NCDC was held on: Wednesday, 8th March 2023, at 7:30pm, remotely via Zoom

Present – Bob McGeady (RM - Chair), Alistair Williamson, Stephen Moore, Margaret Roberts, Bill Manson, James Titcomb

In Attendance – Charlotte Anderson, Iain Davidson, Yoyo Buchet

1. Apologies – John Alex Cromarty

2. Approval of Minute – Minutes of meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were approved by RM and were seconded by SM

3. Nortenergy Update: MR reported that previous turnover target for 2022/23 had been in doubt but now actually looked like it may be higher. The English market was picking up and the current focus was on this. MR also noted that Nortenergy were sorry to be losing HH at end of month and wanted to thank him for his efforts during his time there.

The pilot 5m-wide Polycrub was progressing as well as a 2m-wide for more urban environments. There was confidence in the structural stability of the 5m model and they were in talks with CASE Shetland for structural accreditation.

RM asked if the cashflow situation was okay and, while MR had not had specific discussions with MH about this, it appeared to be fine. RM also asked if they planned to replace HH and MR reported that they would likely look for another Graduate placement but with a leaning towards engineering/design, this time.

4. Growing Local Project – Yoyo reported that, since MH left, her main focus of work had been:

- Tourist App. – Claire White was currently working on the script and hoped to have this completed by next week
- Nort Trow Garden – She had been helping them to look for funding for a sensory garden. They were now applying to SCBF
- Funding Application – She had been working on this with CA but was now leaving it to CA to complete
- Junction Polycrub project – Planning had asked for better drawings which should be OS-based. RM advised that she could go to a Planning Portal online and complete there

**Action: Yoyo to complete drawing and submit to Planning**

5. Financial update – WM reported that, following his recent absence, he would be meeting with ID/CA in next month to catch up on financial business. Meanwhile, there was nothing unexpected in the financial status to report.

**Action: WM/CA/ID to meet**

6. Hillswick shop update – CA reported that she had received a draft proposal from shop for a loan but the figures had been left for JAC to complete.

**Action: JAC to complete draft proposal**

7. Weaving Shed update – ID reported that the next Artist-in-Residence would arrive next week for 2 months and hoped to work with the community on a project related to the Voar Redd Up. MR/ID reported on a meeting which had been held with GJ/PC recently to look at the long-term future of the Weaving Shed as a community asset. MR suggested that an email sent by GJ that day summarised his vision best and that this should be circulated to all directors.

**Action: ID to forward Geoff's email to all directors**

8. Old Urafirth School Update – CA reported that the project had taken a step back as Fiona Robertson was now unable to carry out the HNA until September. There was some discussion around whether they could wait this long or if CHT (who also quoted) should be approached. RM proposed that he and AW and CA meet soon to discuss options. This was agreed

**Action: RM/AW/CA to meet to discuss**

9. Matters Arising –

Junior Board – RM/CA had met with pupils at BHS to discuss proposal. 2 pupils attended with another 3 noting an interest in being involved. Loren Manson had been tasked with co-ordinating them and arranging an inaugural meeting.

Stucca – Nothing further at present

10. AOCB

Declaration of Interest - RM advised that he would be required to declare an interest in any future discussions relating to HHA as he was now on their board

Craft Shop – CA reported that a meeting had been held with interested artists and crafters in the area and there was a great deal of enthusiasm for the project. CA had proposed either using various local halls or the Galley Shed as a location (the latter incorporating a NUHA exhibition). All were in favour of the Galley Shed option. One of those present later contacted CA saying that some of them thought NCDC should buy the Crofters' Arms and convert it to a Craft Shop and Café (MR declared an interest at this point) but this was not picked up on by any of directors. The Up Helly Aa committee were still to hold a meeting to discuss and ID had spoken with NFU re. insurance and was waiting to hear back

Eshaness Lighthouse/Johnnie Notions Bod – CA reported that she had met with HS of Shetland Amenity Trust to discuss the latter's plans to offload these properties. They were keen that they should become community-owned. They valued the properties at £120K and £25K respectively. MR asked if they were willing to negotiate on price and CA responded that they would be open to a Community Asset Transfer. There was considerable discussion on the pros and cons of such a venture with some directors wondering if NCDC could manage another CAT on top of Urafirth School one. There were also varying views on the financial viability of such a project. Some also felt that the "extremely basic" condition of JNB made it unviable while others expressed the view that there was a market for such (holiday) accommodation. HS had suggested that they may have an Open Day at the properties for the community but directors were in agreement that NCDC should not get involved with that at present but a site visit by directors was suggested as was inviting HS to the Planning Day.

Recycling Festival – CA reported that she had held discussions with MH around the idea of holding a week-long festival celebrating recycling and the green economy in Northmavine, incorporating: Bruckland; a Repair Shop; Artwork using bruck; a circular economy conference; make do and mend workshops, etc. She was still to speak with other groups who may want to get involved.

Tourism Funding – CA had received an email from a member of the community regarding available funding to take on a seasonal Ranger for Northmavine who could lead guided walks and other activities. Directors agreed that, if this was being fully funded then it was certainly worth pursuing. CA also reported that she planned to hold a general tourism meeting in April for those in Northmavine, involved in the industry.

Active Travel Audit – ID reported that he had attended this online event which was hosted by SIC and SYSTRA who had carried out the audit in 8 areas of Shetland last year, with a view to identifying obstacles to, and recommending solutions for, active travel infrastructure. The other part of the meeting was to hear the views of the local community. There were several issues raised but all could be summarised down to the local appetite for speed restrictions on the road and a foot/cycle/bridle path before many would contemplate active travel on this stretch of road (Urafirth to Hillswick)

AGM – MR noted that the AGM would need to be held soon and that this was an opportunity to consult the community so we should prepare ahead what we wanted to ask them. CA suggested that there should be info boards in the main hall with the actual meeting in the clubroom. Ideas for the boards included: Growing Local achievements; the old Urafirth School project; the proposed Tool Library; the Youth Board and the Tourism App. CA also planned to revisit the results of the drop-in day suggestions for ideas on consulting members of the community.

12. Date of Next Meeting – It was agreed that the AGM on the 19<sup>th</sup> March should be held first, then incorporate the next General Meeting along with the Planning Day on 23<sup>rd</sup> April

Meeting ended at 20:27