



A meeting of NCDC was held on: Wednesday, 3rd July 2024, at 7:30pm, online by ZOOM

Present – Stephen Moore, Margaret Roberts, Alistair Williamson, James Titcomb, Craig Johnson,

Apologies: Bill Manson, David Brown

In Attendance – Charlotte Anderson & Karlyn Garrick

Previous minutes were approved by Stephen Moore and seconded by Margaret Roberts.

1. Nortenergy update – MR informed directors that Polycrub had attended the Highland show in June and had received a great deal of interest. MR believed it had been worthwhile in terms of sales and allowing potential customers to have a visual of the polycrub itself. The sales outweigh the logistics of travel however no real figure of how many sales as yet, but it's looking healthy. Last month they sent a Polycrub to Switzerland.
2. Growing Local update – CA updated the board that the first lot of funding from the lottery had come through at the beginning of June which was £32,000. There have been 9 application packs sent out for the gardener job. CA spoke with Jim Duncan Feather who is to come next week to sort out power to the big poly, the community fridge and the container with the compost machine. SM queried if the large poly structure had gained its technical approval, but it hasn't yet, Polycrub is still waiting to hear back from CASE Shetland about this. The wait time has allowed for Polycrub themselves to make positive tweaks to the design, MR says Maree Hay is now at a point to seek structural accreditation. Total at the Shetland Gas Plant has offered support and manpower to kit out the big poly. CA told the board that Elaina Leach had put the Growing Local Compost Project for Total's monthly benefit, which has gone through. MR put some tomato plants into the big poly earlier this week.
3. Financial update – CA says it's on target, she had reduced the income from Nortenergy having spoken with Maree Hay, so looking to reduce our outgoings and generate more income.
4. Hillswick Shop – SM gave an update that they have Leigha Watt (LW) back in helping with the paperwork and on the shop floor. An advert for the manager post was advertised back in June however there has been no interest. SM reminded the board that the shop situation would still need to review in 12 weeks' time. A new member of staff started last week and seems to be fitting in well with the staff, though she may need some more training. LW had suggested to SM about having training sessions for all the staff, SM thought that the training would be beneficial to the shop board members too. A previous member of staff who resigned has mentioned coming back to the shop, but this is still unknown whether they will come back. The shop has had to reduce its hours due to staff availability. SM has tried numerous times to get the banking changed over to his name but is struggling. CCTV was installed in the shop, which has made a huge difference. CA is to get signs printed up to let customers and staff know that they are under surveillance. Letters have been reissued to two locals that aren't allowed to use the shop. CJ asked how the shop was doing, CA said that LW is stocking different 'newer' products in the shop, which has been positive. A lot of customers have changed back to Shetland milk, after the Shetland Farm Dairies' shop local drive last month. CA hopes to get more on social media of when the bakery and butcher meat orders come in, customers have also been reminded that they can order specific things when the shop is making it's orders. A notebook has been placed behind the till for any suggestions from customers, the person doing the orders can then look through the list and see what they can get. CA had suggested to LW about getting small items from Tesco, a click and collect could be done.

5. Weaving Shed update – Esmé Wilcock, Kelly Robertson & Mark Gatter’s ‘Freedom’ exhibition opened last month. However, due to personal reasons Esmé hasn’t been able to open as much as she’d like to, and Kelly is away on holiday at the moment. CA to catch up with Esmé when she gets back from Orkney. Esmé has also offered to paint the flat and the gallery in the winter, as NCDC has been struggling to find painters to give the place a freshen up.

Action: CA to catch up with Esmé

6. Old Urafirth School update – CA and Bob McGeady met with Tracey-Anne Anderson of estates at the Council to speak about a Community Asset Transfer. CA met with Lynsey & Rosalind from Community Development at the SIC, and they gave a list of what we would need to put in for the transfer. BM had asked CA to get a meeting set up with our local councillors to get them on board with our project, however it is proving difficult to find a date. CA met with Luke Fraser who did the housing needs assessment in Orkney. He is also working with the North Yell development group, LF plans to meet with Neil Grant about community housing in Shetland. SM queried how the processes work, community asset transfer takes 6 months, but the negotiated sale is much quicker. TA said with the negotiated sale the SIC can only go so much under the marketed value of the sale, but with the community asset transfer, the council has sold properties for as low as £1. MR asked if this transfer was still with the view to building housing, CA replied that we’d need to make a final decision on it. CJ pointed out that the 6-month wait was buying time to have more conversations with the board, the community and the appropriate contractors involved, and potentially not spending the full marketed value on the property. AW stated that the house must be in decline now, through lack of heating and general use. MR said that this would be included in the business plan, to make it worthwhile income wise for NCDC. CA suggested that NCDC, North Yell Development Company and Bressay come together to discuss community led housing. AW & SM agreed that pressure was needed on the council to build housing in outlying areas – not just Lerwick.

Action: CA to chase up councillors for meeting, meet with Rosalind & Lynsey again

7. Matters Arising –

- a. Johnnie Notions – Ross Keith is coming to do legionnaires testing at the property. CA is still waiting on the short-term licence; CA is also hoping to get the fire assessment completed while she’s there. The building is covered by insurance now. CJ asked how long it will take for the short-term licence, CA is hopeful for this year, but it could mean that nobody is in it this year. Johnnie Notions should be straightforward application due to the building’s nature and structure.

Action: CA to complete fire assessment

- b. Stucca – no update.
- c. Youth Board – CA planning a meeting with them next week as they want to hold an event through the summer. One of the changes to Community Councils is to have a youth members, on the council, Lynsey Hall hoped the youth board could link in with NCC.
- d. Swinister Trees – Bobby Poleson wants to meet with Georgia at the Amenity Trust and Charlotte to come up with a plan for moving forward as well as help getting forms filled out for grants.

Action: CA to organise meeting

- e. Business Ring – KG has pulled together information about crofters/farmers around Northmavine. CA thought to print off flyers to give folk at the Voe Show in August as a lot of folk, will be there that could benefit from the business ring.

Action: CA to make up flyers

- f. NCDC 20th Birthday – the trows have been painted by the schools in the last couple of weeks of term, and Karlyn has been varnishing them this week, in the hopes of getting them out in the places next week. Karlyn is still waiting for quotes back from caterers for the dinner dance. The St Magnus Bay said they couldn’t do it, and there’s been no reply from the Braewick Café, KG has approached James

Milne from The Two Guys and The Kitchen Table down in Sandwick. The Urafirth School also has a big anniversary this year and we don't want to clash with that. We've got a provisional date of the 9th of November.

Action: KG to chase up caterers, finish varnishing trows

Action: KG & CA to get Trows out in the wild!

Action: CA to send invite list to Maree to check we have everybody

8. AOCB

- a. CA was at workshops for the Rural Energy Hub convention in Orkney, they had Community Transport Scotland up who did a presentation, they are keen for new members to join up, it's on a tiered system. NCDC would probably be in the top tier which costs £400. Membership includes support for all the paperwork and licences you need to run community transport. They can do the Section 19 licence that you need to do community transport, which is £11, and the licence lasts for 5 years. It takes them 3 weeks to do but can take longer elsewhere. They have an insurance broker they work with that gives good deals, and they are really keen to start a regional group in Shetland. They also have links with a group in Northern Ireland who is selling their vehicle, as the garage is closing in Northern Ireland but there is still in Scotland.
- b. Office move – CA & KG are looking to get moved down to Bruckland in the next few weeks. CA is planning to move the landline to digital and use the Teams phones like what Polycrub use, however this can take 10-30 days.
- c. CA spoke with Ann Johnson about joining the board, however this would be a conflict of interest with her work being at A9. Still not found anyone for taking on the treasurer role for the board. SM asked if there had been much interest in the finance job, KG said that 6 application packs have been sent out. CA said that Carly Sutherland had suggested that the person could do the Hillswick Shop finance side – SM welcomed this idea. The closing date for the job is the 12th of July..
- d. CA has spoken with A9 about Sage training, which is £136. MR said she would support the training costs if it could benefit the workload.
- e. MR asked if there had been any interest in Bruckland Sunday, CA said 4 people come forward, however none of them live in Northmavine. A perk was to have a reduction on your membership fee; however MR suggested a free Bruckland Membership if they could commit to one Sunday a month. CA said we have volunteers that want specific jobs like filling skips etc but not actually manning the place.
- f. North Highland & Island Climate Hub do a climate festival in September, CA has applied for funding for some of their events. CA's idea would be to have an open day at Bruckland, alongside the community fridge, hopefully we have our new vehicle, and the compost machine will all be up and running. SM asked if this had to be a certain date, but it just has to be held in the month of September.

MR asked about the flower & produce show, CA hadn't thought much about another show, but would need to get schedules out soon. It could tie in with another Crub Crawl. Comments were made last year that the date had been too late, but this year could be different as it's been a poor growing year due to the weather. CA thought we could have the open day, the produce show and a crub crawl all on the same weekend.

Date of next meeting 14th August 2024, 7:30pm, Ollaberry Hall

Meeting ended at 20:20

