



A meeting of NCDC was held on Wednesday, 08 January 2025, at 7:30pm, online via ZOOM

Present – Bob McGeady, Stephen Moore, Alistair Williamson, Bill Manson, Kev Forth, David Brown, Margaret Roberts, Craig Johnson

1. Apologies: none

In Attendance – Charlotte Anderson & Karlyn Garrick

2. Previous minutes were approved by Robert McGeady and seconded by Stephen Moore.

3. Nortenergy update – MR joined later.

4. Growing Local update – Kev Forth (Growing Local Gardener) joined the meeting to give the board an update. He and Luke have been working hard on the big rig, which they plan to have ready for planting in April. They are hoping that Derek Robertson may be able to come along and plough one of the smaller plots at Nancy's in Eshaness that hasn't been used in a long time. He has made a start to the raised beds in the big poly at Bruckland on Wednesday. RM said he would like to see Stucca getting worked over as it will be seen by the community and create some dialogue about the project within Northmavine. The compost machine Big Hanna has been fired up though it's had its issues. They need to be careful with that the put in regarding the temperature the machine will work at and the temperature outside. They are going to work with non-food waste material to test it out to see how it does, so that the end product isn't wasted. They need to be careful when food waste is delivered that they don't attract vermin. Seeds have been ordered and are slowly arriving. Kev & Luke have been helping out at the Nort Trow Gardens doing bits of weeding and grass cutting. The Nort Trow Garden team have offered space for Kev & Luke to use, Nort Trow volunteers will weed this during the growing season if Kev & Luke can carry on cutting the grass once a month. By the end of January they hope to have the raised beds finished in the big poly so they can start planting. CA is working on their PVGs so that Kev & Luke can work with the schools. Kev said the schools get going with their planting but the holidays come along and the schools struggle to get folk to come in to tend to it. Kev & Luke could look after the school produce when it's the holidays. He said by the end of March they hope to have more growing areas ready for planting. They have 2 plots at Da Barn, Hillswick that they've got garlic & onions over wintering.

[Margaret Roberts joined the meeting 19:47]

MR asked about a project budget sheet which Charlotte has been working on already. MR & WM both congratulated Kev for what he and Luke have achieved so far, as it's not been the best time of year to start.

[Craig Johnson joined the meeting 19:50]

ACTION: CA to circulate Kev's update

5. Financial update – WM said the finances were as they should be, he mentioned the bridging loan of £10,000 to the Hillswick Shop, this will be paid back. RM said that he took an executive decision on the loan which was given to tide them over during their wait for the funding to come through from the SIC for their new chill and lights which were fitted in early December. CA tried to get the payment done in December but the SIC payment system was down. Stephen Moore said as soon as he knows the money is in the bank he will get it transferred back over to NCDC.

6. Hillswick Shop – Stephen Moore said that Michel Tordoir (MT) had now been in his post for 3 months and he would like to clear his probation period. The board were in agreement though RM thought this would be a Hillswick Shop board decision. A member of staff was due to come back in January however she won't be returning for another 6 months. SM said he was going to be advertising for more staff as she was covering 20 hours a week. SM said he appreciated the bridging loan. The new chill and lights have improved the shop. He said one of the shops accounts has been put on hold, but he understood this wouldn't be for long as they were chipping away at the debt. In October they were £14k outstanding, by



Northmavine Community Development Company

November it was down to £9k and in December it was down to £8k. The Christmas turnover has been very good and much improved over recent years. RM asked if general turn over has increased to which SM replied that it has. They've received a bill for their electric which is now at £520 a month with a total of £3500 still to pay. MR hoped the new lights and chill would be more economical for future bills. SM said he would like the accounts to be more timely, so they could be checking figures more often. RM asked if they were moving to Sage at the end of the year which SM replied he hoped they would.

SM is still struggling with the Co-op bank, who have again issued cards for previous staff members who no longer work at the shop, he will be chasing this up.

CA said that 119 December shop vouchers had been used in the Hillswick Shop last month, which she has since paid. CJ commented that the shop is looking great since the refurb of the chill and lights, SM thanked CJ and said he would pass this on to the shop staff and board.

7. Bruckland - no update, CA said it hasn't opened in the new year due to the weather but hoping to open up on Sunday.
8. Weaving Shed – CA had informed Geoff Jukes by email that NCDC would be ceasing working with the Weaving Shed at the end of the financial year. MH & MR went to visit Geoff and MH is now working with Geoff's PA Andrea Bridger to see if the Weaving Shed can support itself.
9. Old Urafirth School – RM said there was no update on this, he hopes to work with CA over the next few weeks for a new expression of interest.

ACTION: RM & CA to work on new EOI.

10. R100 – CJ said there was no update. Openreach have no date or finance. He has spoken to Shetland Broadband again who gave various ideas. CJ asked them for a feasibility study. CJ is waiting for a proposal from them but will chase them up at the end of the month.

11. Matters Arising –

- a. Johnnie Notions – CA said no update, hoping to get it up and running shortly
- b. Stucca – no update.
- c. Youth Board – CA is meeting with them on Monday the 13th of January after school. She said she was hoping to recruit some of the young ones to the board who helped at the NCDC birthday dance in November. The Youth Board plan to do a housing questionnaire for young people in Northmavine.
- d. Business Ring – no update
- e. NCDC 20th Birthday – RM said it was a good evening and had been well received by those who attended.
- f. Eshaness Lighthouse – CA is still to meet with Hazel Sutherland from the Shetland Amenity Trust. MR had bumped into Mairi McLeman who had asked in passing if NCDC were still hoping to pursue the Eshaness Lighthouse idea to which MR had replied NCDC is hoping to proceed as long as planning allows. CA had a request from Sheena Anderson about a Shetland Pony exhibition space at the lighthouse, as there is nowhere in Shetland about this, Sheena had spoken with Pat Christie who suggested there may be heritage funding to go along with this.

12. AOCB

Ronas Voe Fish Factory – CA asked if Michael Tait should be invited to a board meeting to find out what he's looking for in regards to renting the fish factory. RM thought NCDC had enough projects on just now. CJ said there was no harm in having a discussion, WM said he maybe didn't need to come to a board meeting but could still have a general meeting. WM, RM & CA agreed to meet with Michael.

Action: CA to speak to Michael about meeting with RM & WM.



New board members – RM spoke with Kelly Robertson & Fiona Hargreaves about joining the board, Kelly is still keen, though Fiona has since decided she's too busy just now to take on anything else. CA had also mentioned to Lindsey Stephen about joining the board, she would think about it after the Northmavine Up Helly Aa had been. The board agreed to extend invitation to Kelly just now.

ACTION: CA to send out documents to Kelly

AGM – CA asked about setting a date for the AGM, the board agreed that this should be in line with Sunday Teas as it helps to bring folk along, it was decided to go with Hillswick for the AGM this year.

ACTION: CA to contact Laureen at the Hillswick Hall

CJ had missed the Growing Local update but wanted to ask if Kev & Luke were engaging with the Hillswick Shop on what produce they would like to be selling in the shop. MR suggested speaking with the Ollaberry Shop too. Kev has spoken with Michel & Jane on several occasions as he sometimes does the van run, Kev has also spoken with Braewick Café and has an idea of what each business is looking for.

- 13.** Nortenergy update – MR asked MH to circulate management accounts. December is always on the low side for figures. There has been lots of interest in England & Wales. Polycrub are looking into offering finance options which may help future sales. Costs are always increasing, and they're trying to maintain their prices. The figures are showing the usual pattern at this time of year with sales slowing down.

Date of next meeting is 12 February 2025 7:30pm in the Ollaberry Hall Clubroom, MR gave her apologies as she will be away.

Meeting ended at 20:30