

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of Midlothian Community Media Association
held online on 23rd February 2022 @ 19.00

Present: S Horsburgh (SH) in the chair, C Mackrell, (CM) T Conlin (TC) Alan Thomson (AT) Carrie Campbell (CC) G. Clayton (GC) minutes

Apologies: Bob Miller, Kim and Addie Thomson

Minutes of the December and January meetings were not available but Kim expected to catch up next week after a very busy time at home and work.

Finance: £15063.13p including donations from online shopping.

Small Grant of £3K awarded from Midlothian Council for 22/23. MCMA will now bid annually and to this end Tony and Kim would attend a course on making a good funding application.

In terms of the grant award requiring the station to engage young people and have training online Steve reported on a student who was starting on a media studies course who he had shared the online Playout training course created by Chris and was hopeful that the student would join the team.

Insurance costs will be on the rise with the additional need to cover the new transmission site. CC said she would continue to use a broker specialising in getting cover for Charities.

The bank account was still with RBS.

Technical Update: Halkerston was working well.

Power cuts were causing the station to go off air and back-up systems need to be improved. Cuts of 3-4 hours were unable to be covered as the costs were prohibitive. However it was agreed that CM should source a new UPS that would cost between £400-500 to make an improvement to cover shorter periods of power failure.

A new Digital card for the transmission box would allow the Sustainer to work better during cuts.

AOCB: SH raised a concern received about scheduling and one particular slot. TC agreed that this was valid and he accepted responsibility and it was down to poor communication and ill-health. There had been an issue about the best way to notify and fill vacancies over the years and a variety solutions tried. It was agreed that the presenters be consulted about this and other issues in a meeting at a venue such as the Dean after Easter.

GC was disappointed that information that he felt should have been conveyed by the Board was on Facebook after postings by non-board members. A wider discussion about press releases and the best method to promote the station ensued recognising that these items had stagnated since the last meeting. The shelf-life of flyers versus an advert in the magazine that circulated for 3 months and then was replaced was debated and it seemed that the magazine was more cost effective'

It was agreed that as SH would be meeting with G Rigby he could get advice on the wording and layout of an advert and to finalise a press release drafted by Chris. AT mentioned that we were getting a mention on the Council Twitter site.

SH informed the meeting of the death of Gordon Close who had been helpful with the Ford Garage Sponsorship. TC had been in a number of businesses in Bonnyrigg and said that our profile was low in that area.

PC: thanks to Addie for donation of PC.

GC indicated that he felt that Monday Musicals may have run its course as his Library was limited.

He suggested a change to 'Mellow Mondays' via Webvt after 28th March. CM would unlock that hour for access to the Payout library.

Security and Lighting: SH agreed to raise breaches that occurred on a Sunday night with the presenter involved.

There had been no change regarding the lighting at the cage and at the front door. It was agreed that SH approach Jill Marsh and if it was unlikely that the Council would do the work, He should seek permission to install lighting at the cage to ensure the safety of volunteers.

COVID changes: Review after the 21st March but initially re-instate main microphone but retain cleaning regime. The blended mixture of Home, Payout and pre-record as well as studio would be retained and only when the webvt licence came up for renewal would a change be considered.

The importance of presenters focussing on Midlothian whatever the means of broadcasting should be stressed.

AT had cast out for Breakfast Show Sponsors but as yet no bites.

SH thanked everyone for attendance and condolences to Gordon whose brother had died recently.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 23rd March @ 7pm