

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of Midlothian Community media Association held online on Tuesday 30 August 2022

Present: Steven Horsburgh (SH); Kim Thomson (KT); Gordon Clayton (GC); Tony Conlin(TC); Bob Miller (BM); Chris Mackrell (CM); Alan Thomson (AlanT); Russell Aitken (RA)

Apologies Addie Thomson

SH joining later; BM chairs meeting

RA having technical difficulties. KT messaged telephone number to join meeting

Minutes of meeting 26 July 2022; Motion to approve moved by TC seconded by GC

Finance Update

Current bank balance £13768.29

CM has couple of small purchases to be refunded for. Will send details to CC

Quick Books is set up to record financial information going forward. VAT report has been submitted.

Technical Update

CM was at the Station 24 & 29 August. New broadband line has now been installed.

Router and modem linked up. Studio line is to be linked up to voiceover - in progress

Amazon Alexa skill is live; can now ask for Black Diamond FM; can ask for 107.8 and 100.7 if in the correct area. Analytics to be set up; allow us to see who is listening.

Synergy MPU & desk looked at. When connected this blows the fuse. CM confirmed going to attempt to contact Jason Nairn from Clyde to get quote for a repair.

Update to Payout1 completed

CC asked what will happen if we cannot get MPU repaired. CM is checking price of new MPU; will depend on the specification we want.

SH joined meeting.

RA dropping in and out - KT messaged with telephone number to join meeting.

Board discussed the differences between Payout1 and Myriad. Pros and Cons to both.

Currently running at high risk as don't have anything to replace MPU with if it fails.

RA stressed importance of having working equipment

CM also going to attempt contact with other station that had same equipment and had offered us before. AlanT advised there is broken kit at Newbattle High School. AlanT and CM will speak offline. SH and CM will discuss ideas offline.

News Writing Workshop

AlanT will post on facebook page and request KT emails to members. Suggesting we open workshop to other groups; Midlothian Council, MVA, Edinburgh Live, Midlothian View, Edinburgh Reporter. Good to have more involved and perhaps encourage others to join MCMA.

CM reiterated importance of trying to get more local content.

AGM

Date for AGM set as Tuesday 15 November 7.30pm. To be held at Station. To ask for large room and also cafeteria.

Presenters no show/program coverage also Volunteer retention & recruitment

TC raised concern about presenters giving little to no notice for not being able to cover program. Also have presenters just not showing up.

BM advised he would post on facebook page

Board had a lengthy discussion about importance of recruiting new volunteers and ways to make radio interesting to young people.

SH suggested we involve podcasters - CM advised this would involve editing and would not count for key commitments as not original content.

Board also confirmed not just young people should be encouraged - suggestion for on air promo 'anyone can do tik tok, but can you create a radio program?.....' eg

AlanT will do some research and find out who to speak to at schools in Midlothian - starting with Newbattle. Board agreed that Webvt would be useful tool for schools

Scouts and Guides have a radio module we could assist with and try to keep interest after module is complete.

AT had previously spoken with Jake Heriot at FNMP. Jake would have presented a program and brought in the young musicians. AT had already brought in some of them as guests on Saturday Matinee.

RA raised that young people are already involved with the Sport programs.

Creation of interactive schedule

GC asked Brunoj of a way to have interactive schedule. Brunoj suggested Google Sheets. Only the scheduler would have access to amend. SH confirmed Google calendar was used previously

Event Volunteers

KT raised - missed opportunity for training other volunteers to learn new skills. Feel we should be suggesting that when asking for volunteers to join the events we should be saying we can have as many volunteers as want to go and let them know they can learn new skills/build confidence.

CC Left meeting

Breakfast program reduction to 2 hours

Steve Burnett not available for breakfast. AlanT has offered to cover 4 days but would need to reduce to 2 hours. The Board agreed that 2 hours for 4 days is better than 3 hours for 3 days. SH advised he would be able to cover some Fridays.

AOCB

KT raised several presenters are not playing news jingle and some also miss the start of the news.

TC raised several volunteers are not completing the handover book.

BM advised he would add these points to his facebook post.

Date of next meeting Thursday 13 October @ 7pm