

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of Midlothian Community media Association held online on Tuesday 30th May 2023

Present: Kim Thomson (KT); Steven Horsburgh (SH); Addie Thomson (AT); Tony Conlin(TC); Chris Mackrell (CM); Alan Thomson (AlanT); Russell Aitken (RA) ; Ian Hunter.

Apologies for non attendance, Bob Miller, Larry Donaldson

Minutes of meeting 7th March 2023; Motion to approve moved by Alan Thomson (AlanT) seconded by Tony Conlin (TC)

KT Chairs the meeting for the first time, after changing from the position of Vice chair, at the previous meeting, on the 7th March to the office of Chairwoman for M.C.M.A. **SH** assumed the position of Vice Chair, from this meeting going forward. **TC** assumes the office of Secretary going forward, after being proposed at the previous meeting listed above.

Agenda Items

1.

Treasurers Finance Report/ Update:

AT reports that the bank balance is £14,843.64. Cheques to clear, 1 for Ian Hunter the sum of £560.00, who had inadvertently deposited his rent money, into the our bank account, instead of his landlords. 2. for Chris for reimbursement who paid the Payout 1 licence £962.21. In addition Addie renewed our insurance, and purchased some necessary cables for our outside events, that we lacked, totaling £874.54. Our insurance now covers us for outside events regarding us running the events inc bouncy castles etc. Risk Assessments will be required to be carried out.

AT informed the meeting, that he spoke to Carrie Campbell & RBS, and hopes that finally he has completed the online bank account forms, confirming the changes of signatories, TC to fill in the form and sign and return it, Carrie, BM, SH and KT will be contacted to authorise changes, and that should be it all done. SH confirms that he has received and completed the form.

2.

Technical Report

CM re- iterates his earlier sending of an e-mail to the board, regarding on air drop outs, this has occurred more frequently over the previous two weeks, and involves the two micro dishes between Newbattle Centre & Mayfield Medical Centre. There are various reasons that can cause this, ranging from dish alignment out of kilter, to weather and foliage, Chris explains how this leads to spikes, and a drop in audio, fortunately these spikes often occur late at night, TC asked if it was down to faulty equipment, CM advised no. CM advises that we could ask Ariel Man to come up and inspect this, as he isn't qualified to do this himself, AT interjects that Geoff Ruderham had asked him to use his drone at both sites to see if he could spot anything. If dishes are out of alignment this causes the signal to be out of line. The outcome is that a couple of things can be done i.e AT drone or Ariel Man CM also informs us that there are firmware updates, this involves taking both dishes down to have them inspected etc. CM proposes a backup solution to combat this, by installing a 5g wifi broadband connection currently about £30 pm. £8.33 one off fee for a router, there is also the possibility of a hard wired broadband connection at the medical centre currently £41 pm. Firmware would require downtime during a day, CM suggests the quickest way is to instal a 5g hub, a hard broadband

connection could take weeks as we are at the mercy of Openreach and when they are available, Router yearly cost £360.00 plus a one off payment of £8.33. Its basically a win win situation if installing a 5g hub £30.00 pm by DD. CM also informs us that Fibre broadband is now available in Newtongrange and at the centre. 900 meg package £68.00 pm 300 meg package £58.00 pm. Fibre is far more stable and reliable 900 meg £816 per annum 300 meg board agrees to 900 meg package of £68.95 at the centre. Clyde kit not yet accessed for repair, as CM has not yet had the time to see to this, due to heavy workload.

3.

Chamber Of Commerce Update:

IH reports that both him and AlanT have as yet been unable to facilitate a meeting with them, due to holidays, illness etc, but they are hoping to have a meeting later on in the week. IH reiterates that he will update the board after any meeting, or meetings take place, of the outcomes.

4.

Scheduling update:

SH: Since the last meeting on 7th of March 2023, there have been two suspensions, both have completed their suspensions. One was for a phone call taken in the studio on which the presenter swore, while the microphone was open. The other was a presenter playing a song which contained a swear word. SH explains that this happened during the transition of chair and vice chair, both took the appropriate action as agreed at the previous Board meeting. BM had emailed that he heard about the suspensions but not via the Board. KT agreed that in future the Board should be kept informed. SH has intimated that the schedule is a bit up and down at the moment due to lack of personnel, but he has a new member joining the team his name is Ricky Toner, who will hopefully occupy the 'What's New Slot'.

Sadly it's not good news regarding Graham MacLeod, who is really unwell in hospital. Sunday could have a new slot due to this ? There was a discussion regarding Moira Clayton who Gordon informed TC that she is beginning to fail now, and her programme may be in the short term category, due to this, potentially afternoons will need to be covered on Tues & Wed. There was also a discussion regarding recruitment and training and work placement etc. AlanT informs us that he is going to contact the schools to try and recruit young people, but he wouldn't be able to until after schools return after the summer holidays. IH says that 3 banks have community sections that may help support us in these endeavours. KT flags up that the recent suspensions have featured board members, AlanT raises the point that it's also been those presenters who do the most programmes. AT asked a question, regarding some content on the Drive Home programme, unfortunately this was seen by some members as a personal attack. A heated discussion followed and KT had to intervene to restore order.

5.

Co Opt A Member To The Board:

KT brought up the proposal by AT & TC to Co Opt Geoff Ruderham to the board, citing his invaluable, and unique skills, and know-how and experience. KT advised that Geoff had been approached before, but had to decline because of his home situation at the time. This has now changed, and he is now free to take up a position. KT proposes that we now formally Co Opt Geoff to the board. AlanT raised the point that Geoff was being invited without having to say what he could bring to the Board; as with IH. KT advised that Geoff would not be doing anything different to what he already does but

it would benefit the Board having Geoff as a co-opted member. There was a further heated discussion and AlanT and CM left the meeting. Geoff was subsequently Co Opted to the board.

6.

Studio decoration:

This is retained on the agenda in order to keep the board updated on the progress, and the fact this has to be done after 6 pm on a Saturday. TC advised that Ricky Toner has access to community projects that may be able to assist us, Ricky is now a member of BDFM.

7.

Fundraiser on Fri night:

Quiz night is well in hand and a big thanks to everyone involved in organising it.

8.

AOB

IH proposes us working through a sports supplier to raise funds, as previously he worked with Le Coq Sportif in Glasgow, in conjunction with the Evening Times, to help sports clubs to register, and be 'married up' as he said with local business people regarding sponsorship etc. He has a link with VNS sports wear where BDFM would receive a commission if we run a campaign during the sports programme.

TC advises that he may have three potential sponsors coming on board and is liaising with Graham Rigby

SH, is fine and delighted that Geoff is now a board member, he also lets us all know that Gorebridge Gala day celebrates its centenary this year, SH is coordinating BDFM's presence there as it is running from 10 am til 10pm, Gorebridge Gala providing the P A and sound engineer, SH supplying laptop & mixer for the day and anchor.

AT asked the question if it was possible to have face to face meetings, the general consensus is yes we could.

Date Of next Meeting

Tuesday 18th July

