

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of Midlothian Community media Association held online on Tuesday 18 July 2023

Present: Kim Thomson (KT); Steven Horsburgh (SH); Addie Thomson (AT); Tony Conlin(TC); Chris Mackrell (CM); Bob Miller (BM); Russell Aitken (RA); Larry Donaldson (LD); Geoff Ruderham (GR)

apologies - Ian Hunter and Alan Thomson

Minutes of meeting 30th May 2023; Motion to approve moved by Alan Thomson (AlanT) seconded by Steven Horsburgh (SH)

The chair welcomes GR to first board meeting.

Chair update - reminder to allow each member to finish speaking and have questions after:-

'The board's key purpose "is to ensure the company's prosperity by collectively directing the company's affairs, while meeting the appropriate interests of its shareholders and relevant stakeholders"

Full Board members are voted on by full members. Co-opted members invited on by the board. Basically everyone is trusted to make sure Black Diamond keeps going.

I joined the Board 5 years ago in the days we were allowed to meet up in person. At these board meetings everyone was actively encouraged to say what we thought. No idea was a bad idea, no opinion was wrong and more importantly no one took anything personally. And everyone was allowed to speak without interruption. Yes, we had some heated discussions but at the end of the meeting everyone was friends again.

As far as I know, not one board member has the same background as any other, which means we potentially get 11 different ideas, 11 different suggestions, 11 different ways of looking at things and 11 different opinions.

None of that is wrong. And not all of it is right but there will be a valid reason for that and we have to be the bigger person and appreciate that. You'll likely find that the straight out NO to a suggestion is because it's not only been thought of before, its been discussed in full so we know that it won't work BUT you will still be heard.

From now on at the board meeting, each of us will be given a chance to speak with an update of what they have been working on since the last Board Meeting (Addie, finance update, Chris, technical update, Steve, schedule update, Ian/Alan Chamber of Commerce etc) with questions AFTER that person has finished their update

Agenda Items – the person looking after the item or has asked to have it added, will speak and again we'll have questions AFTER they have finished speaking

What I will say about any suggestions is we need more than the initial idea. We need to know how you think it would work and what you plan on doing to make it happen, eg Chris suggesting we have fibre broadband installed - brought the idea to the board but also with the cost options and how it would work and help – we discussed it asking a couple of questions and gave him the go ahead. The next we heard was a post on the work page to advise it was happening.

Black Diamond is important to every one of us and a lot of hard work has been put in over the years, and that hard work has to continue if we want to achieve anything like another 15 years.

We also need to remember that as volunteers we need to get some kind of enjoyment out of

this – after all we're not getting paid! – and I think the way to achieve that is to be considerate to one another but also we need to accept what each of us is saying as a potential way forward for Black Diamond.

Bottom line – everyone is entitled to an opinion.

The Board agreed with the Chair update.

Technical Update

New Fibre Broadband and 4G backup solution installation complete. Have upgraded one switch. still to upgrade router and another switch. Can build on this. CM will get prices for new equipment as and when required and report back to Board. No reported internet issues since installation.

Link between Centre and Medical Centre giving issues. Not as frequent or catastrophic as previous but have had usual capacity issues due to weather and more foliage on trees.

options - aerial man to have a look. Make sure dishes are in alignment.. upg sw of dishes but need to take link down while doing this and advise better to do it while Medical Centre is open in case need access. Or try 5G router at medical centre. provides internet link at site. possible issues with having router in metal cabinet. Could also consider broadband line. not necessary to have fibre. CM will get costs and speak to medical centre contact.

bdfm website. operating system behind is at end of support. CM has looked at new template. will send out link after meeting so board can have a look. Looks more up to date. It is Work in progress. Has a pop out player. listen live. Still relies on being given content.

GR - asking about sustainer on stereo. changed MPU and not worked yet. MPU needs repaired so could be worth trying again. Using sustainer more so would be good to have it.

BM - CM previously mentioned upgrade to Playout1. Latest version 5. CM not completed yet - has to take sustainer down to do updates and then put up again.

Finance Update

no access to bank yet. still trying

DD not paid for phone line and bank won't speak to me to find out why. CM had to pay over the phone to have phone line re-connected.

KT has paid PPL and VAT. Carrie been on holiday so meeting up to have cheques signed for CM and KT.

Once RBS are sorted, AT wants to move to another bank. SH suggesting online bank. CM suggested possibly can't use online bank with 2 signatories

BM can get screenshot of account

Chamber of Commerce - no update IH and AlanT not at meeting

Scheduling update

SH - looking ok for breakfast and drive gaps due to holidays and not a big uptake on cover. A lot of last minute call offs.

Bruno show on Tues currently ring fenced for TC. Bruno may be able to cover odd hour

New presenter due to start - not able to start. Ricky Toner.

Ricky Templeman looking to come back

Mix1 is now Edge 2. Ricky Templeman could come back - board ok with that. SH suggested more presenters may want to come back .

GR - re presenters coming in from elsewhere - make sure they are trained for BDFM and use community news etc.

RA raised that he has listened and says some presenters don't talk enough.

LD - agreed with GR than presenters shouldn't play 3 tracks in a row

CM - OFCOM guidance about Key Commitments - not just music, make sure there is LOCAL content. Need focus group eg. to help presenters keep it local. Include presenters

SH raised we need to be mindful that everyone has their own ideas.

GR raised focus group to get 7am to 6pm as 'real' radio.

TC confirmed group to help presenters.

CM also advised we need to review our key commitments. Confirmed he would send out to the board

CM leaves meeting

Rest of members

TC

Had feedback from public that afternoon is not good

GR suggested he speak with SH about ideas he has to improve programs

RA

Has regular contact with Sport section of Midlothian Advertiser.

BM has a contact at Midlothian Advertiser

KT brought up suggestion of using local groups on FB to advertise fundraisers

Midlothian Federation of Community Councils - BM advised every area in Midlothian has representation. All local news coming from here.

BM advised he and Gordon had a meeting with Midlothian View several years ago. Very keen to have a collaboration with BDFM. Could be worth a try to contact again.

LD

Brought up infrequency of one presenter attending. SH suggested it was a discussion for the focus group.

KT raised not enough presenters waiting to fill slots.

RA

Working on sport project with IH. Had a lot of interest.

Admin studio has documents - asking who has responsibility to close the station down. Document on wall has John Richie name. KT advised Ofcom should have the correct details but the document is just out of date. SH checks while meeting in progress and confirms the name Ofcom are holding is out of date. KT and SH will pick up offline and amend. Put up new document with KT name.

BM

BM advised a lot of promos in library are out of date and would benefit from a tidy up.

BM reminded us he will apply to Disclosure Scotland for anyone if required.

AT

Russell has a lot of regular reporters and they should be members. The board agrees Russell should have his regular reporters fill in membership forms - in particular for the broadcast agreement.

AT raised he was told Russell mainly concentrates on football. SH confirms there are other sports covered.

AT also suggested having board meetings face to face. KT agrees that it would be nice to see others.

BM suggested light nights face to face - dark nights online

GR

Raised DAB. Thought we should be looking at it. KT advised CM spoke about it previously and Board had agreed not to join Edinburgh multiplex but wait for Midlothian multiplex and have noted interest.

Fundraiser Update

AT advised 1st September - Pig Racing. Details to follow.

KT and AT advised a shame not a lot of people and always the same ones.

AOCB

SH - Gorebridge Gala day a success. SH there all day Friday and Saturday. a great turnout and good feedback about the service we provided.

KT raised the other gala days seem to be covered ok with some different people taking a turn - although still minimal people attending. AT suggested contacting Newtongrange Gala committee to ask why BDFM was not asked to cover the Gala this year.

AT also advised after the next fundraiser he would be stepping down from fundraising. LD suggested a new location. Tried Gorebridge Bowling Club twice and had very poor turn out. Board agreed Addie had done a good job.

Meeting Closed

Next Board Meeting Monday 4 September at 7pm