

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of Midlothian Community media Association held online on Monday 20 November 2023

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

Geoff Ruderham and Addie Thomson joining later

Technical Update

Moved webstream away from Digital Ocean. In with Amazon now which will reduce cost. Also moved webstream setup in hub. Now separate from FM transmission so if FM goes off online will keep going. Now independent of each other.

More transmission issues - outage during mid morning . Increased power to see if that would resolve issues. CM needs to get to bottom of issue. Not always having access to medical centre does not help. BM asks what do we need:

1.Put in broadband

2. 4G or 5G router. Around £300 per year for router. Could be added to BT. CM will check prices.

Also should get Aerial Man to inspect dishes. Been up 5 years not checked yet. Cost will be higher as need 2 ladders to access dishes

BM asked if he had heard right in that medical centre wanted us to remove our equipment. When GR was last there Sandra suggested we might be asked to leave. CM not heard anything official. Need something official to take to Ofcom

CM advised we could potentially place a cabinet outside medical centre. The cost of this would be relatively high and would take time to organise.

Scheduling Update

Heart of the Matter will do normal programming for xmas day. Graham Rigby may want to do program on Xmas and New Years Eve. SH will check

Kris Cameron asked about doing pre-record for Xmas day, this will be fine

SH will check with CM and GR before having anyone live on New Years Day - they could then have the day off!

Ben Dieter Holt been taken off schedule - see later Update

Couple of gaps looking for presenters and there is an increase in last minute call offs.

Dance team on Saturday night are losing Paul Nisbet due to family commitments. - LD suggested speaking to Steven Boyd. LD advised he will make contact with Steven

AT has started a new program on Monday evenings.

GR joined meeting

Swearing on air

KT heard Ben Dieter Holt use the F word during his program. CM checked and confirmed it was said. Phrase used was 'Ofcom can f**k it'

He was taken off air and KT emailed to let him know what had been heard. He responded to confirm receipt of KT email but also advised he had not said f**k, he had said 'suck'. He found the whole thing very amusing

Ben sent KT a recording which KT believed had been edited. Again, he did not take the matter seriously.

Several of the Board had not heard a lot of his programs but believed he sounded drunk.

Board agreed that as his program was pre recorded there was opportunity for him to re record any any inappropriate content. KT received a further email to ask if he was ok to go back on air. There was no apology given. Board agreed that he should be taken off air permanently as they felt he could not be trusted to produce a program with acceptable content. It was agreed he had broken the Broadcasting Agreement and that the Board have the option to review membership applications.

Agreed that SH, as scheduler, will not put Ben back on air. Board will then refuse any further membership application.

KT will email Ben and draw his attention to the Articles of Association that are available on BDFM website.

AGM

Date set for 7 December. GR recorded promo, CM will complete. Posters have been placed in building and AlanT will arrange for it to go in Midlothian View.

Re-election. 3 people to stand down. 5 people due this year. KT wrote names down, put 1 to 5 against them and had a friend pick 3 numbers; using some random method as stated in Articles of Association. 3 people are KT, SH and AlanT.

Room is booked at the Community Centre from 7pm.

SH will arrange to bring tea, coffee and biscuits

KT confirmed the minutes from last year AGM are ready and Accounts are finalised and will be submitted after the AGM and by the deadline of 31 December 2023

KT to share the agenda and accounts with SH so they can be emailed.

AlanT will take paper to the station for office printer.

AOB

RA - working on Xmas messages. Has 10 so far. Enquired about approaching the local MP. Advised better to approach all parties. Advised RA to check Midlothian Council website for list of contacts

CM asked if RA has the contact details for all participants so we can follow up after Christmas. RA advised he has all the contact details

AT joined meeting

RA advised still working on sport sponsorship with IH. IH advised delays due to summer holidays and health issues.

RA advised he had received an enquiry about it.

KT asked if they would update the board. IH advised he would do this.

AlanT - Xmas program with RA with schools progressing well. AlanT is going into local schools to record children singing to be played on air

Also has work experience ongoing and has received requests from more people. Request includes Croft Street hub. - not a mainstream school.

CM

Our supplier of network monitoring tool offered a donation if CM filled in a survey. We are to receive a £100 donation. Also to sign up to donation hub. Requested a picture of a bank statement for BDFM. BM confirmed he will send this to Chris.

The Platform for this can be included in our website. This will make it easy to donate.

Edin DAB been in touch again. At last look the total cost for the year is £2747.20. GR will talk to a contact to check prices.

Will cover mainly Edin city centre. CM advised limitations, eg if you lose signal it 'doesn't go fuzzy' just goes off.

Previously confirmed expression of interest for Midlothian multiplex. Not heard anything since.

AT advised the money for one year should be available. He will confirm back to the board.

CM will confirm the latest costs.

AT

Raised issues with the lack of funds coming in. KT agreed we need to introduce the broadcast fee raised at a previous meeting.

AT will raise this at AGM.

Board agreed that MCMA membership can stay at £1 but we introduce the broadcast fee

BM

Asked about transferring signatories to Addie and Tony with RBS. Addie has to call them again.

Discussed moving to another Bank once signatory change is complete.

BM and SH completed 10 years on the Board last week. Board congratulated both of them.

BM received contact from Disclosure Scotland. Bob suggested we offer it to the rest of the Station. Board agreed Bob would put message on facebook page.

KT suggested it would be good if we are looking to have more young people involved.

TC

Raised lack of support for Bruno with events. Board agreed and confirmed it would be raised at the AGM.

Next Meeting - AGM 7 December 2023