

North Skye Broadband Steering Group Meeting No 14

14th April 2016 SLCVO – 18.00

Minutes

Attendees

Roy Bennett, (Chair) (RB), Geoff Semler (GMS), Elgar Finlay (EF), Nick Duffill, (ND), Nial Till (NT), Charles McCrimmon (Deputy Chair) (CMC),

Apologies were received Mo Scobbie (MS) Brian Mennie (BM)

Abbreviations (PS) Peggy Semler,

RB opened the meeting and the meeting followed the published Agenda.

Previous Minutes for 10.03.2016 were accepted subject to suggested amendments. RB continued to take this meetings minutes, it was noted a minutes secretary was still required, it was agreed that in the absence of anyone coming forward the offer of undertaking minutes from (PS) would be accepted. GMS noted PS was his wife and the group assured him they did not feel any challenges would arise from this course of action and were both grateful and comfortable about the appointment, but would be happy to keep the situation under review to avoid any suggestions of conflicts of interest.

Adoption of minutes proposed by RB Seconded NT

Action Point RB - Minutes from last meeting completed

Minutes were approved Proposed NT seconded by CMC subject to correction of meeting place being altered from Glendale to GMS`s home.

Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest

1 Progress Report

HIE /CBS report –There was no formal report from HIE or CBS – instead an update was given by GMS with regard to the situation with the PQQ and ITT and the ongoing discussions with HIE & CBS. GMS summarised the meeting with HIE and the overall feel was that whilst there had been changes to the scheme footprint and the procurement processes due to BDUK implementing the new state aid scheme rules, the overall outcome was positive, although it was noted considerable uncertainty remained about the final number of premises we would be asked to cover it was recognised we had clarity about the Phase one area. As a result of these changes we were required to redo the public state aid consultation and process the changes to the ITT process, it was agreed this would be addressed with a meeting with Atkins Farpoint which EF was arranging. Concerns remained with regard to the final wording of the ITT and the SG agreed to review its position on this subject to the outcome of the FA meeting.

The choice of legal representation was discussed, GMS had sent round the briefs received and it was debated what was required and which tender would be the best. The SG agreed that CMS would be an appropriate choice subject to further clarification on some minor points.

Comms Public Engagement Report

EF proceeded to give a report on the overall outcome of the Public Engagement programme, which was very positive with many offers of help being made and further registrations of interest. It was agreed the report be circulated amongst those who attended the meetings and also those who had registered an interest, for comment, and it would then be displayed on the website.

Further discussion was held around broadening the communications programme to a summer events campaign. This would be worked up with the Comms Group

Action Point – Design Summer events programme EF & the Comms Group

2 Company Structures – Combensoc or other entity

This work was ongoing discussion were being undertaken with the Plunkett Foundation about interest payments and extra share issues. The proposed rules are complete and ready for return to Plunkett. It was noted we are not able to go down the route of offering extra shares in lieu of interest payments. **Addendum note correction to earlier meeting minutes** it was agreed shares would be £1, membership would be £100 and the Management committee would be no more than 12.

4 AOB

There was no other business the Chair thanked the members for attending and the meeting was closed at

20.40

Next Meeting was agreed for 12.05.2015 – Venue TBA