

North Skye Broadband Steering Group Meeting No. 18

13th October - SLCVO 18:00

Minutes

Attendees:

Roy Bennett (Chair) (RB), Geoff Semler (GMS), Elgar Finlay (EF), Niall Till (NT), Moira Scobbie (MS), Charles McCrimmon (CM) in attendance, and via Skype Robin Crorie (RC).

Apologies: Hugh Ross, Nigel Redfern, Steve Varwell

Previous Minutes from 1.9.16 were accepted unanimously.

Matters Arising:-

S Varwell has assisted with identification of landowners

Draft documents have been circulated

Meeting 26.10.16 – Action completed, EF and MS will be attending.

Directors Report:

Distributed prior to the meeting, GMS asked for any queries, questions or comments.

Zoe Laird (CBS) to attend and present at next SG meeting on 10.11.16. GMS stressed that it would be better to try and find a way of working with CBS but only if we can gain their support for a solution that works for us.

GMS has asked CBS to prepare two sets of draft documents, one complying with CBS preferred position and the other reflecting the High Level Requirement such that after the 10th November meeting a decision can be taken about which of these will be carried forward.

Meeting with Kate Forbes scheduled for 25.11.16, EF and RC attending, GMS may also.

RC is working on a draft wayleave document.

Project Manager's Report:

Distributed prior to meeting. EF has contacted the larger landowners on our potential route(s) (HIE, MacLeod Estates, Glendale Estate, Forestry Commission, Scot Govt, etc.). So far reaction has been positive, no problem with access for survey purposes.

Suppliers meeting went well, and most attended EF's presentation after the CBS session.

NOTE: GMS has asked CBS for list of all the people that attended and who they represented.

Current priority to get options on high level designs and rough costing from several suppliers in order to inform the business plan.

EF has started work on Business Plan and will be working with Plunkett to build the framework. The next stage is to apply to Community Shares Scotland to provide support for the development of the business plan which would be produced in line with any future community share offering

NSB has purchased 1024 RIPE V4 addresses

Rhoda Grant did not have as much time as hoped to discuss the project situation with Fergus Ewing, so has asked for an update so that she can follow this up with a letter to him. **ACTION: GMS to produce briefing note.**

RB suggested the volume of technical work is likely to grow and that it might be appropriate to establish a Technical Sub Group of RC, NT and CM. This was agreed.

As part of the discussion with CBS, GMS has suggested that CBS funds could be focussed on the access sub-project. This would allow CBS to deliver its objective of connecting as many premises as possible for as little as possible and free the other sub projects from the burden of the public procurement process. A response to this is awaited and GMS has suggested to CBS that this should be addressed on 10th November.

RB stressed that it was essential that as many members as possible try to attend the next meeting on 10.11.16, with Zoe Laird, as critical decisions will need to be made as a result of this.

It was also noted that most of the wind farms/turbines in the area have fibre laid to them. In particular Struan/Edinbane windfarm might be a useful route to be able to exploit.

Action: GMS to contact Vattenfall and find out status of fibre.

Date of Next Meeting:

Next meeting to be held at SLCVO on Thursday 10th November 2016, 1800.