

North Skye Broadband Steering Group Meeting No. 21

19th January 2017 - SLCVO 18:00

Minutes

Attendees:

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

Apologies: Hugh Ross

The Minutes of the previous meeting (8.12.16) were accepted.

Matters Arising:-

EF has followed up offer of financial data on maintenance costs (offered at meeting on 10.11.16) from the Western Isles broadband project which Atkins/HIE are involved with, but nothing has been received as yet.

Directors Report:-

GMS reported that the Business Plan was ready to release to CBS on time, but, as previously agreed, was not released to them until there was an NDA in place. CBS signed the NDA on 10.01.17, and the Business Plan was issued to them on the same day. No feedback has been received from CBS on this to date.

EF and GMS attended a meeting with CBS (ZL + AMcD) on 12.01.17, which was a follow up from the previous meeting. The meeting was also attended by Geoff Foot (CBS) with whom various other funding options were discussed. Another paper produced by Neil Watt, covering issues with various public funding options, was provided at the meeting, but not discussed, as NSB had not had a chance to study this in advance.

The Neil Watt paper was reviewed after the meeting and RC, EF and GMS had a teleconference with a public procurement consultant to discuss various public funding options. As a result of this, GMS has written to CBS (ZL) suggesting various funding options. A response to this letter is still awaited.

Project Manager's Report:-

EF ran through a presentation that covered the high level business plan and assumptions. It is intended that this will form the basis of future presentations to funders, investor meetings, community engagement etc.

He has also been in contact with Community Share Scotland who will provide support for developing the share offer scheme for the ComBenSoc.

RB pointed out that the community representatives need to start considering how they will go about moving forward with their communities in the area of getting wayleaves agreed, getting commitment to take service, and investing in NSB.

Further plans for community engagement to be discussed at next meeting.

B4RN have produced a “how to do it” guide for their communities, which can be used as a guide to produce a local document. **Action: RC/EF** to circulate B4RN document for information and draft an NSB equivalent.

NOTE: The next meeting on 16th February 2017 will be preceded by the AGM of North Skye Broadband (2015) Limited.

Meeting dates for the next four months:-

16 February 2017 (plus AGM), 16 March 2017, 13 April 2017, and 18 May

These will be held at 18:00 hours at SLCVO unless advised otherwise.