

# North Skye Broadband Steering Group Meeting No. 22

16<sup>th</sup> February 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).

1. Apologies: None
2. Declarations of Interest: None
3. The Minutes of the previous meeting (19.01.17) were proposed by CM and seconded by GMS.
4. Actions arising from the minutes: None (that are not covered below).
5. **Directors Report**:- GMS reported that a lot of effort had been put into the production of an outline for a voucher scheme. The voucher scheme was passed to CBS (ZL) in order that she had it available for her discussion with BDUK on Tuesday. At this meeting, they confirmed they are also looking into such schemes and have carried out a consultation on the subject. BDUK agreed to consider the NSB proposal, together with the other 96 responses they have had to the consultation.  
It is still not clear exactly what the rules on having to offer wholesale services are, and what BDUK's role is, so clarification is being sought on these.  
NSB needs an extension of the current contract period with HIE in order to continue reclaiming funds from them after 31.03.17 – Ian Philp is addressing this.  
The information about maintenance costs from the Western Isles broadband project (as discussed with CBS in Nov 2016) has still not been received, and is still being sought.  
A contractor has been engaged to do the detailed survey work and cost analysis which should enable a detailed network design to be produced.
6. **Project Manager's Report**:- EF reported that he and RC have been working on the Community Toolkit (as per last minutes) and will produce by next meeting. We need the community reps to start to think about putting together local teams of volunteers to carry the project forward.  
EF and GMS attended the THC Ward Meeting, to update all the local councillors on progress on the project, which was well received.  
The Scottish Government and MacLeod Estates have now been sent the wayleave document and this has been passed on to their respective lawyers.  
EF has also had a meeting with the local NFU representative who was very supportive and offered to help introduce NSB to landowners, etc.
7. **Implementation Teams Formation**: There is a need to get community groups lined up so that they are in place when they are needed. These teams need to understand all that things that will need to be done, e.g. wayleaves, community participation, etc. It was agreed that the contacts generated from the earlier community engagement activities should be revisited and be asked to help.

**Action:** RC + EF to compile a list of the relevant data and bring a draft toolkit to the next meeting.

**Action:** MS + EF to get together to share contact information and break it down into areas with a view to emailing people.

The next meeting will be on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 18:00 hours at SLCVO unless advised otherwise. Further meeting dates will be 13 April and 18 May 2017.