

North Skye Broadband Steering Group Meeting No. 15

12th May 2016 11 Ullinish – 18:00

Minutes

Attendees:

Roy Bennett (Chair) (RB), Geoff Semler (GMS), Elgar Finlay (EF), Niall Till (NT), in attendance, and via Skype Nigel Redfern, Robin Crorie and Nick Duffill.

Apologies: Mo Scobbie (MS), Hugh Ross, Charles McCrimmon.

Previous Minutes from 14.04.16 were accepted and approved without amendment.

Summer Events Programme:-

EF has produced a plan for attendance at events over the summer months which has been circulated to the Comms group, namely:-

- Skye Agricultural Show
- Highland Games Day
- Struan Gala
- Uig Gala
- Skye Half Marathon (18.06.16)

Plan is to have a stall with registration forms and free balloons to give away to kids. Some events are free, for some there is a small charge. Balloons (white with logo in colour) and a banner are being ordered. **ACTION: Board to approve final costs**

State of Play:-

GMS reported on the most recent meeting with CBS (Attendees GMS, RB, EF, Neil Watt, Alistair Nicholson and Archie MacDonald). No minutes have been provided by them as yet, but notes were taken by North Skye Broadband and sent to CBS for information. New broadband procurement procedure due to be approved at end June, ITT cannot be issued before this. SAPC can go ahead prior to end of June. CBS have instructed Atkins FarrPoint to test the North Skye Broadband high level requirement with BDUK, to see what the response is. CBS also advised that NSB are number two priority, after Fife.

Public Consultation Postcode Areas:

After discussion, the meeting unanimously agreed to move forward with Option 1 of GMS's paper "North Skye Broadband – Revised Public Consultation 29.04.16" – i.e. those post codes which were defined in Douglas Cowan's letter to GMS. Those that are now being mentioned as possibly coming back into NSB's scope should be regarded as a separate, Phase 2, project, with the possible exception of codes contiguous with the project area. With regard to advising CBS of this decision, it was agreed that a letter to this effect be drafted and circulated over the weekend, with a view to sending to CBS on Monday (16.05.16). **ACTION :** GMS and EF to draft and circulate.

Research Visits:-

While the project is being held up, it was agreed that some time and effort could usefully be directed into researching other, similar projects to gain further knowledge and technical information. To this end, it was agreed to contact and potentially visit three other schemes; (1) Argyll, (2) B4RN and (3) one in Holland. RC and NT have already attended an Open Day at B4RN, so further discussion and planning is required before visiting them again. **ACTION:** RB to put together plan for proposed visits.

AOCB:

GMS noted that at the meeting with CBS they advised that by the end of May, not only will they have bottomed out the Post Code issue, but will thereafter be referring to “premises”, not Post codes (a combination of Ordnance Survey and Post Office data). This will therefore be the way the ITT has to be specified.

Freedom of Information Request; GMS reported that the response he had received to this was basically that “we would love to help you but”! The meeting agreed that further action should be taken on this. **ACTION:** RC/RB to draft a response and forward to GMS.

Next Meeting:

While it was accepted that a response from CBS to the letter which it is planned to send on Monday might require a special meeting, it was agreed that the next meeting should be held on 9.06.16, at SLCVO’s offices. **ACTION:** RB to book.