Broadband Steering Group

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5th June 2013 @ 7:30 p.m. Fernaig House

Present: Phil Game, Geoff Harrington, Mary MacBeth, Neil MacRae,

1) Apologies: Joe Grimson, Hamish Howat Hurst

Hamish sent in his thoughts via email.

2) Previous minutes.
Proposed by Neil, seconded by Mary

Copies of minutes are on our website at:-
http://www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=433827

Email Broadband@fernaig.fsnet.co.uk if you would like to be put on the circulation list or you have any questions.

3) Meeting with Sandra Byrne of Community Broadband Scotland (CBS)

Phil and Mary had a meeting with Sandra on Tuesday, and as a lot of ground was covered which potentially could affect all the topics on the agenda it was agreed to discuss this first.

A separate note will be produced summarizing the meeting, but the key points are:-

There is funding to cover capital expenditure only
Funding is to cover a full system only; a phased approach to funding is not possible
If we were to apply we would have to decide whether Ardaneaskan and North Strome are included **before** we apply for funds
To obtain funding a systems design must cover all functions including backup, i.e. it will no longer be our decision what level of resilience we implement.
There will be a full support package, e.g. pro forma for Wayleaves, Domestic contracts etc.
It will not just be a question of filling in forms; CBS will come out on site and work through the process.
The six trial projects are to be used to develop the support package.
As yet none of the above are in place and there is no timetable for the next round of funding.
It is understood that Applecross, one of the six pilot projects, has not yet had its funding approved.

There are no details of what the practical effect of HIE's deal with BT will mean.

4) Role of auditors, finances and liabilities

Auditors

The revised TOR which now includes the MAC code was circulated by Hamish, these are now complete.
Closed

Hamish & Geoff will have a separate meeting to set up the auditor's records.
Action: Hamish, Geoff

We organised a meeting with Bob Anderson, these are the main points from the meeting:-

> We will set up a Community Interest Company (CIC)
> There will probably be some solicitor's fees to set up the CIC
> There will be annual costs of £300 to £400 to pay for the CIC to be audited
> **Action Mary**
> We will check what funding is available and when a top up may be available.
> **Action Joe**

Phil checked with Robbie Bain that the CC loan can be repaid with interest.
Closed

Issuing bonds for domestic equipment and using the CC loan for backbone equipment.
A CIC can issue bonds

Insurance cover

Phil found one example of cover from another Broadband group who have allowed £1,000 per year for public liability and employers (which might not apply to us) liability. We allow for £1,000 in the budget.

5) Testing Update

a) Outstanding issues to be resolved for this configuration

Check all parameters for the best setting. Not finished and we may need to do some additional fine tuning, but we do have a robust working configuration. There is still work to be done; we will resume this after the demo.
Action: Phil

b) Investigate management & accounting capabilities, not finished, see AirControl
Phil has found some free network management software Spiceworks (paid for by ads, nothing to do with five women with nicknames) which looks promising, but this hasn't been set it up as we don't yet have a full time network.
Action: Phil

Bounce a signal from Fernaig to the hall via the hill. It turns out this is not possible as the included angle exceeds the Nanostations horizontal beamwidth by too great a factor. This does not affect the implementation, but it does mean that the tests can only be run in one location until we trek up the hill and physically point the device either at Fernaig or the hall.
Abandoned!
Connect the hall to the hill, speeds around 70 Mbps each direction (140Mbps total)
Completed
Connect the hill to Plockton

Completed
Test from Fernaig to Plockton:-
    Ubiquiti link worked at the first attempt with speeds around 20 Mbps each way, 40Mbps total
    Broadband speeds over 5Mbps, no discernible loss due to the Ubiquiti kit
Completed

Test from the Hall to Plockton
Demo > 5Mbps, and get everyone's approval to proceed.
Outstanding, see 7 below

Phil asked if he could keep the two spare routers for more testing.
Action: Hamish, Neil, Phil

6) Restoring the power to the TV repeater station for the demo

To replace the section of buried cable will require 300 metres of cable and 3 joints at a cost of around £400. It was agreed we would review this again and if necessary trial the removal of a section of the old cable to see what sort of effort would be involved.
Action: All

Neil had obtained details of the cost of a hydro connection, but it wasn't clear exactly who does what or who supplies what. We will clarify this.
Action: Neil

7) Test link from Plockton
We would like to express our thanks to Liz MacRae our "donor" in Plockton who has been extremely helpful with our testing of the Ubiquiti link and broadband speeds.

Broadband speeds in Plockton are surprisingly variable but OK for the demo.

How do we express our thanks to Liz?
Action: All

We will need a test of the network for a few hours to confirm the link is stable, a configuration test to connect to the hall before the demo and time to set up the demo itself.
Action: Phil, Mary, Neil

Demonstration in the Hall
The hall has been booked for a demo next Thursday between 8pm and 10pm

We will produce a separate document covering the demo.
Action: Phil, Mary, Neil, Geoff

8) Volume trial.
After the demonstration and before the volume trial we have the following outstanding issues to resolve:-.

Legal
We need to define the domestic contracts?
We need to define the Wayleaves; we agreed that we would include a clause that we would move cables at our expense if requested.
We need to define the terms for bonds?
Action: All

Infrastructure
Where should we locate the power source?
Where will we locate our "consumer unit", should we move it out of Holly Croft?
We will contact the Hydro and ask where we can get more information.
Action: Neil

Finalise the build scaffold relay stations (how many, new site(s))?
Should we build the Lochcarron relay now?
We need to look again for a Line of Sight (LOS) to Strome Ferry
Outstanding Technology, testing over longer distances might suggest sector antenna would be better than the Nanostation.
What equipment should we use to link to the Glen, more testing will be required.
What do we do about obstructed line of sight, trees etc.

9) Implementation Plan
Phil circulated a draft implementation plan. It was decided we would discuss this after the demo in the hall.

10) Next meeting.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 19th July at 7:30pm Fernaig House.
The meeting closed at 10:50pm