

## Mearns FM – Board Meeting 11 JULY 2011 – 7pm at the BELVEDERE

### PRESENT

BB Bill Barclay  
CS Charlie Sands  
CH Chris Ann Holt  
IH Ian Hunter

### APOLOGIES

Nigel Griffiths

#### Ofcom complaint

CS advised the board that Ofcom had been in contact regarding a complaint about not transmitting. However the Garvock transmitter (relayed to Inverbervie) was now operational again after a line fault had been fixed by BT OpenReach.

#### Approval of previous minutes

The Minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> May and 11<sup>th</sup> June were both approved. BB advised that there had been an enquiry about previous minutes from George Brebner, to which he would reply.

#### Advertising

There was some discussion about advertising being properly paid for. If there is "horse trading" then this has to be approved by the Board. No-one is against horse trading, and BB is to ask for clarification of what we got back in respect of the Ma Simpsons advert.

#### New presenters

BB has passed two people on to Elaine, who is going to arrange training after the schools break up. Alan has forwarded another volunteer's details to BB. IH has arranged to meet a fourth, who was rather late for a meeting but now wants to do a programme.

#### Reminiscence recordings

IH suggested exploring making recordings at the Tolbooth Museum. CS said he had been at St Mungo's Museum in Glasgow, where you could write or record your own reminiscences.

#### Sports Show

BB and Gary were keen to do a sports show on Saturday afternoons. The IRN football results were available. IH said the tennis club were interested too. BB had done a show like this on hospital radio, but wanted it to be more than just football and involve other people.

#### Applications for grants

Trump, Wood Group, Balmoral etc. had all been sent begging letters by BB and he would issue more. There had been no replies yet. IH had been to a CVF funding course and would e-mail the papers to BB.

#### Funding

CS said his son had got to the "difficult" questions in starting to fill in grant applications, but asked IH to forward any copies of previous grant applications these would help. The Awards for All application presently being considered would be for running costs (being the costs of supporting the volunteer work for a period).

Aberdeenshire Council are funding "coastal regeneration" with the KMAP AGM coming up soon. The funding applications are very time consuming.

Hugh Black has said there could be as many as 23 wind farms possible and with £45,000 pa available we can look for the costs of running the Garvock transmitter (perhaps taking in Inverbervie) – when the grant window opens. Keep an eye on the website for changes. BB has offered to help with the forms at home.

CS to discuss with NG

**Treasurers Report**

We are short of funds. The August and future direct debits will be lower, however. We are now paying bank charges per transaction.

Did we not have a number of adverts on the point of signing? Doug McKelvie (DM) had said he would finalise his existing sales leads, but was not going to do that "until the future was decided". There had been no invoices for sales/advertising since Jane's Design Studios and the Rosebowl in February.

IF suggested a flyer for each shop. BB and CH agreed to help. CS agreed to do personally addressed letters to businesses but in the meantime would get flyers around the town centre shops himself.

The initial policy per IH was that we would get adverts done (paid for) and then seek sponsorship for community ads. The social adverts were just too long, thought BB. We need to be careful with that. We are not getting a good enough selection of community ads, which should be topped and tailed with an advert for a business. We should be encouraging community groups to advertise and CS to e-mail local groups (45 seconds or less, with them to provide the voices) and encourage this. The farmers market have provided a you-tube soundtrack to be used as an advert.

CS agreed to loan funds to allow this month's bill to be paid.

**Secretary's Report**

The Ofcom complaint was mentioned already. The Annual Report has been submitted to Ofcom, and the report should be posted in the website. CS to do this in the members area, but it really need to be public. We need to put a link in and maybe Steve Holt or Alan Craig can help.

Linda Babbs of the Council was suggested by Aberdeenshire CVS as the best person to speak to about PVG. But IH said this was also a KMAP service, so it would be worth discussing it with them and their two workers there. CS to contact them.

**Sales and marketing**

CS to do flyers. IH to discuss with Raymond. DM's potential leads (First Drive, Economove, Factory Direct Kitchens, the spray painter etc.) should be followed up direct. BB to pick up from details minutes and phone them.

**Music and commercial production**

IH said he was happy to be involved.

**Transmitter technical**

IH was to meet with an engineer but Chess (the intermediary between Converve and BT Openreach) refused to talk to him. But the transmissions from Collardo have resumed. IH said there was no dial tone but the internet connection was working.

IH said he had done 25 interviews at the Open Air Pool, and would put them on the website. Raymond Christie was filling in for BB on that day and helping out all over the place.

IH was to get in touch with Leader Funding, and fix a mid September date for fixing the roof.

We have to get away from the technical person being the only/main contact. Two tech guys have felt they are pressured by the role; they have been pressured into taking too much on. A lot of good work has been done, but we have to simplify the role.

**Fundraising**

NG was talking to Bill Pirie about a ceilidh in October and we need to get on and make a booking ASAP. It is something we want to do. BB to email NG and ask him to progress.

Should we be doing something before that? We need to sell some adverts. CHS to a arrange meeting with NG.

## AOCB

Steve Holt has said he is happy to take on the Harbour High Jinks. The MRI have also asked for help, and again Steve is prepared to do this and the board were delighted that he agreed to do so. BB volunteered to help in the studio.

It was good that Steve had e-mailed everyone about the availability of the studio during the folk festival. Thanks for that.

The AGM was discussed. 21+2 days notice was needed for this. It was thought best to set the AGM date without waiting for the next board meeting and last year it was on 6 September. A similar date would be about 5<sup>th</sup> September and CS to see if the Upper Town Hall was available. [NB The Upper Town Hall is NOT available in 5 September. A revised date has yet to be fixed but it is likely to be in mid September.]. It was agreed this was to be only a meeting of members, and that we should not invite all the MPs and MSPs and community groups as we had done in the past.

In our next meeting we need to decide on the agenda for the AGM, including membership.

There was then a discussion about "open" meetings, with the board meetings only being open to directors and other meetings open to everything. The consensus was that the board had to oversee the decision making process – but it did not need to be a board member who trained recruits, or picked the playlists etc. There is and continues to be open access with Minutes on the web with any board member being able to bring matters of concern brought forward to him/her.

If anyone has an idea they want to put before the board, they can be invited to a meeting to do so. We should have 12 people sitting around the table (rather than a two tier system with four board members).

As a basic example given by Ian Hunter was transmitter maintenance, which had little to do with the board. The group that maintain the transmitters set the policy – effectively. Can we clarify it that that is how we do it in other areas – so of any volunteers want to get involved in programme scheduling or whatever they can just get together with the relevant director and do it? That was the idea of 12 board members – so that interested people would gravitate to the relevant board member. IH thought we needed to clarify/publicise that. It is only if funds were required, for example, would the board need to get involved. But BB thought there was little more we could do to get people to understand that.

What we want people to understand is – **if you want to get involved in that [aspect] then just go and get involved.** We need another 20 presenters being made clear that this is how we work. We need someone to say I will do the recruitment and anyone who is interested just helps alongside them. That IS the situation, but it is worth talking about it at the AGM.

The board is there to make the "corporate" decisions, but if people want to get involved in the decision making they can. And BB said he would have no problem putting something out the members to say that. It was agreed to make this point at the AGM.

IH reminded the board that we need to have "regular public meetings" to consult with the community. We only ever did one in Inverbervie, the ceilidh in Fettercairn might count, plus the meeting at Mackie. But we need to continue to do that, and it was suggested to combine the evening with something else – e.g. an existing youth meeting so that the community workers are there anyway. There is a youth club in St Cyrus, for example.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 10 August 2011 - 7pm at 11 Allardice Street  
Apologies in advance from ChrisAnn