
Abthorpe Broadband Association Limited

Bringing Broadband to the community

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held in the Old School, Abthorpe

19:30 24 January 2017

Draft until approved by the AGM.

Present

The officers of the Association, Eric Malcomson (Chairman), Keith Fenwick, Richard Tomalin and Peter Watkins were present with David Symmers (treasurer) and 34 members of the Association.

Apologies for absence was received from Philip Berry.

Opening of the Meeting

The Chairman of the Association noted that a quorum was present in line with the articles of association of the Company and duly declared the meeting open. The agenda was circulated at the beginning of the meeting and so the business therein was conducted as follows;

Acceptance of the minutes of the AGM held 27 Jan 2016 at Abthorpe was requested and duly provided. The Chairman signed these as a true record.

Reception of the Financial Statements

David Symmers presented the annual accounts for 2015-2016 and pointed out that the accounts for 2014-2015 had been modified to take advantage of tax. Both sets of accounts have the prior approval of the Board. David fielded several questions from the members and concluded that the accounts would be available on the web-site library in a short time.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report was circulated at the meeting. He covered the topics of a steadily increasing membership, support to adjacent communities and the installation of fibre to the premises in Abthorpe. The Chairman concluded his presentation by mentioning that towards the end of 2017 discussions were going to be needed on the capacity of the backhaul and how to increase this and what might be done to offset the surplus monies which will be generated after all loans are paid off.

Officers of the Association

Messrs Philip Berry, Keith Fenwick, Eric Malcomson, Richard Tomalin, David Toman and Peter Watkins continue as Directors of the Association and Mr David Symmers continues as Treasurer.

Discussion on unannounced outages

Peter Watkins explained the information that we had been given concerning the unannounced outages in November and January. It was very apparent that some members suffered distinct problems during these outages. A discussion ensued exploring what the Association might do to better service members in these circumstances. Peter reported that a trigger which would send all internet traffic to an internal website where information can be displayed was being developed. The main sources of information were our telephone helpline message and the status page at www.tovevalley.com/status. Discussion on the feasibility of a second backhaul to act as backup concluded that this was not possible now due to financial implications although some service might be considered in the future. In general, it was up to individuals to implement their own method of broadband backup where needed.

Reports from Directors

Keith Fenwick and Richard Tomalin gave short reports.

Call for Volunteers

The Chairman explained that there was always room for members to come forward and offer their services to the community. Any member should contact us to be put in touch with local people with whom they may augment the voluntary effort.

Any other business

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting.

There followed general discussions with tea and coffee provided by John and Joyce.

Signed: _____ Eric Malcomson (Chairman)