



Reach & Swaffham Prior Community Network

Minutes of the AGM

Tuesday September 21, 2010 at The Dyke's End

Attendees

Bryan Pearson, James Matheson, David Greenfield, Hugh de Lacy, Andrew Hall, Graham Lingley, John Chalmers, Paul Catling, Michael Limb, Tim Doe

Apologies for absence

Anna Chesterman, Jonathan Cook, Nick Acklam, Peter Yost, Tony Jordan, Martin Goodchild, Adrian Nicol, Robert Hollingsworth.

Minutes of the previous AGM and matters arising:

The minutes were accepted and approved unanimously: proposed by PC seconded by JM.

There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on broad growth possibilities following the upgrade to 10Mb/s with Virgin in the past year using a 100Mb connection. One possibility is for further upgrade to 30M. This would involve an increase in annual fee paid to Virgin, [for the Internet connection and bandwidth] therefore we would need more users to cover these costs. More users will require more kit, so an estimated implementation cost of a further £3K.

The current state of the system was providing 3.5Mb/s to most users. The next upgrades to come will be to the Alvarion [backbone wireless] equipment that will increase this to over 5Mb/s.

The chairman compared T&Cs with competition and suggested we may change to a longer minimum commitment, to help cover the free equipment provided at installation but still far less than the competition.

He said that BT are not likely to be installing fibre any time soon.

The chairman pointed out that broad band is important to business in the rural economy as well as domestic users and that RaSP **does** meet these requirements. We could provide 20M but elsewhere this is not happening and quoted from: "BB Britain" - "We are being left behind".



He asked “How can we do better?” and pointed out the requirement for volunteers and that it is good that we have DG, JC, PC, JM but they are all S.P. so we need more, especially in Reach and Upware.

ML asked if other businesses in the area could benefit and could they be recruited to help.

JC added that one particular business user with symmetrical bandwidth requirements and possibly others, could be business / higher value members but just a few normal domestic users would help and that the Meads requirement is later next year and would require reserved high bandwidth.

DG added that there are a number of users on domestic rate that are businesses. It was generally felt that this is reasonable in the case of small businesses.

There was a discussion on the use of bandwidth and monitoring who uses what. There was no conclusion as to if this should affect charges, was probably difficult to do and currently probably had no major influence on performance. It was accepted that the whole Internet had slow periods especially in the UK around 17:00-20:00.

A question was asked about £20/m and was it expensive. BP mentioned that BT’s service was £33/m and far inferior. He had recently asked BT for their prices and covered the details of the deal that BT were offering.

A question was asked “Could we get together with other providers (community groups) and get better prices for bandwidth.”

DG pointed out that it was a great idea but groups had their own connections and are geographically disparate, which made it difficult to negotiate bulk deals.

BP mentioned that we had an ongoing discussion with Virgin about PR and that might result in more (free) bandwidth.

JC said that James Paice was to be approached.

JC and DG mentioned plans to upgrade the remaining old access points among these is AH's which has a large number of clients and coordinating the reconfiguration of these would be a largish task which would benefit from input from the newly formed Reach support team.

JC said that Fenway would be doing all new installs with outside kit. This was to maintain the quality of installations and help reduce the support requirement, especially involving trivial problems that cause connection failure.

(Tim Doe arrived at 20:38 having escaped from earlier commitments.)



Secretary's Report

The secretary had nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report.

JC presented a [written report \[copy attached\]](#) and commented that the finances were in a good state but may be misleading by way of being £2.5K different from last year as an additional quarterly line rental was paid by this time last year.

The treasurer said that we are OK as we are ahead of the game including £4K just spent on hardware upgrades. We are at the point of [just] paying for the main [Virgin] service from members' monthly revenue. We also have around £6-7K float. We don't know exactly how we got it but will probably be by kind donations by whomever – thanks to them. This will be preserved or spent on hardware upgrades.

JC estimated that [to expand on the chairman's comments] around 10 new users @ £20 / month would get us to the point of considering extending the bandwidth.

BP added that support is an important part of keeping the service working.

JM also added as part of keeping the service working, we should record a vote of thanks to DG for all his work on the upgrades and installs after the move to Virgin, which required changing all the IP addresses for all the clients, involving visiting many of the clients personally. **All agreed.**

DG pointed out that DIY installations no longer really work, hence the decision to use Fenway for installing kit.

BP Indicated that the way we are formed as an organisation is under review. JC said that we only exist due to having a bank account. Since we have applied for a Provider Independent IP range it has been down to him [JC] to be the contact **and** organisation. KCOM took this role [for the IP range] in the past now RaSP needs to be a recognisable entity so that JC is not seen as the ISP but RaSP is.

The vote proposed by ML was that the organisation changes its status, following investigation, to that which the committee agrees is best. The members would be polled by email, or an EGM would be called. This was seconded by JM. All were in favour.

The Chairman asked for a vote that the accounts were acceptable – all in favour. BP thanked the treasurer for his excellent work.

Election of new Committee

All of the existing officers and committee agreed to stand in their current positions except Martin Goodchild.



Hugh de Lacey agreed to stand as a committee member, proposed by JC, seconded by DG - vote all in favour.

AH also agreed to stand as a committee member and it was unanimously agreed that he be co-opted.

Charges for the forthcoming year

£20 / month stays but 6 month minimum for new members with Chairman's discretion for especially for those in short term rental accommodation. Proposed by JC and seconded by DG - all in favour.

Election of Auditors

BP proposed and DG seconded that JC's accountants would carry on their fine work - all in favour.

Any other Business

There was no other business.

BP Closed the Meeting at 21:10



REACH & SWAFFHAM PRIOR COMMUNITY NETWORK

FINANCIAL SUMMARY September 1st 2009 - Aug 31st 2010

Opening Bank Balance	£ 6,996.57
Income	
Subscribers	£12,630.00
Commercial Clients	£ 4,120.00
Rent, Rates etc. for sub-let	£ 624.28
Carriage Charge repayment	£ 55.00
Total	£17,429.28
Expenditure	
Internet Service (K-Com)	£ 7,437.51
Internet Service (Virgin)	£ 2,167.50
Equipment bought	£ 3,130.21
Services bought (Fenway)	£ 978.65
Rent for premises	£ 2,820.00
Business Rates	£ 393.64
Planning Application Costs	£ 85.00
Domain Name Registration	£ 57.50
Bank Charges	£ 12.50
Refunds	£ 120.00
Total	£17,202.51
Closing Bank Balance	£ 7,370.26
Discrepancy	£ 146.92