

Connect Arran

Approved Minutes of Meeting

**Held on Wednesday 26th October 2016 at 18.30 hrs
Kilmory Hall**

Present:

Peter Lythgoe (PL) (Chair), David Price (DP)...minutes, Neil Arthur (NA), Bill Calderwood (BC) and Lorna Mansfield (LM)

Apologies:

David Hogg (DH), Michael Armitage (MA) and Andrew Stirling (AS). (Note: Andrew has now resigned from Connect Arran).

1. Minutes of Sept 14 meeting Approved, subject to correction that LM was not present.

2. Actions from minutes

2.1 Billing Confirmed that Broadway Partners` customers will be billed commencing November 2016. There will be no retrospective payment requested.

2.1 Additional broadband potential supplier BC had contacted a company in Troon (Speednet Scotland, <http://speednetscotland.net/>). They were very busy and evaluating their need for additional resource to cope with their existing workload. Concluded that this was an unlikely future supplier but BC would report further as necessary. It was noted that their speeds were lower and the monthly rental higher than Broadway Partners`.

2.3 Letter to MA PL had written to MA regarding issues of concern, particularly timing of workload outside Machrie when Machrie phase not complete, as well as praising technical progress. MA`s response covered below.

2.4 CA website/publicity Ian Adamson removed from website. DP wrote an article for website/ further publicity. MA wrote to DP saying he was happy with it. MA wrote to PL with additional material but it was considered too long and complex for further action.

3. DP agreed to be Secretary for Connect Arran

4. Broadway Partners

MA had earlier sent all CA members an update in the form of a power point presentation. PL, DP, NA and AS met with MA and I. Adamson on Oct 25th for a face to face update of progress and issues. MA admitted that the learning curve had been steeper than anticipated, but things were now stabilising with additional local staff and spares etc, in place. Pleasing to note that Cameron`s shop/post office in Blackwaterfoot is now connected and that the Kinloch Hotel was connected that day(...will also act as relay station to Shiskine golf club) and that locally stored spares etc, now available. This takes the number connected to 33. Overall the CA members were happier with the situation, although some disconcerting news surfaced about the customers in Glenloig on the String road not yet receiving broadband after all due to some

tech/equipment issues. The need to address these urgently was stressed to Broadway Partners. Further discussion about Kilmory...network starting early Nov, and enhancing backhaul capability. MA tabled a google map showing routes of additional capacity/ redundancy being planned for Arran.

Still serious concerns over the Government voucher scheme which seems to be totally disorganised...upsetting both customers and Broadway, who are trying to manage their way through it on behalf of customers. To help facilitate progress Broadway are now offering as an alternative method of payment; 24 months @ £10/ month (ie total £240) as well as the £200 upfront system.

Broadway are still refining their holiday home package...aspects were discussed.

5. 4G BC provided a verbal update.

5.1 Lamlash Still waiting for confirmation of signed-up service provider. Scottish Futures Trust are reviewing the design of the mast for the Lamlash Outdoor Centre location, who requested it to blend in better with the location. Following some initial misinformation to locals about no income for the Lamlash community, BC confirmed that the service provider will be providing income.

5.2 Kilmory One operator is apparently ready to sign up, subject to clarification of backhaul situation. The mast location is confirmed, with landowner asking only a `peppercorn` rent. Discussion are ongoing for the mast to be used by Broadway Partners for broadband in the area and it has space for a second mobile supplier, so potentially there are three income sources to the community. A NAC planning application is expected before end 2016, but pre information is already being supplied to NAC to facilitate a smooth approval process.

5.3 Other areas BC reported that the Emergency Services are intending to move/ upgrade their mast at Corriegills, Brodick, and potentially also upgrade to 4G, and also upgrade the facility at the Dyemill, Lamlash. CA`s role in these activities was discussed. It was concluded that the Emergency Services will do what they need to do and we should merely keep a watching brief.

6. Mandate/Role of Connect Arran

Following a discussion, the following roles were proposed:

6.1 To raise awareness on Arran of the benefits of good connectivity.

6.2 To act as a local link/facilitator to suppliers where appropriate. For example, progress in Machrie and Shiskine would not have been as good without CA input.

6.3 Lobby MSP`s to raise awareness of issues affecting Arran, inc. shortfalls in BT service.

6.4 Act as a support body to locals regarding information/ supply options, benefits etc.

6.5 Maintain/ create links with existing/new potential suppliers.

...to be confirmed at next meeting.

7. AOB

7.1 DP will provide further update to DH for web siteACTION DP

7.2 Agreed that approved CA meeting minutes will be published on the web site....ACTION DP

7.3 DP to write to all CA members to confirm their continued membership....ACTION DP

7.4 Confirmed that Andrew Stirling is continuing with Digital Blacksmith as a specific business opportunity

7.5 Publicity to be discussed at next meeting. CA don't have enough public visibility

7.6 NAC have a broadband fundaccess?

8. Next meeting

18.30 Wed Jan 11th 2017. Venue to be confirmed...ACTION PL