

Minutes of Mearns Community Radio AGM

13th September 2012 – amended minutes

Members Present

George Brebner
Stewart Campbell
Raymond Christie
Chris Deans
Craig Donald
Malcolm Finlayson
John Forrester
Louisa Greenwell
Peter Greig
Nigel Griffiths
Greg Hanson
Margaret Hodder
Chris Ann Holt
Steve Holt
Ian Hunter
Tom MacPherson
Doug McKelvie
Alan Sanderson
Michael Smith
Ken Venters
Carolyn Venters

Non members present

Graeme Clark

Proxy slips from

Elizabeth Blaikie-DMcK
Gary Brindley-RC
Douglas Green-KV
Fiona Green-KV
Margaret Green-KV
Kevin Newstead-DMcK
Elaine May Smith-AS

Apologies from

Douglas Green, Fiona Green, Margaret Green, Bill Barclay, Charles Sands, Elizabeth Blaikie, Kevin Newstead, Tony Langton.

Minutes of Previous AGM

Minutes of previous AGM have been available to all on the MFM website. No queries or amendments were raised so were accepted as accurate. Proposed by Chris Ann Holt, seconded by Carolyn Venters.

Matters arising from Previous Minutes

No matters were raised.

Chairmans report

This year has very much been about consolidation and reorganisation.

This process started with management committee / board of directors. Each member was encouraged to pick a department to lead; they were then empowered and entrusted to run that department. Monthly meeting then became more about setting goals while pushing and supporting each other to reach those goals. I have to thank the board for adopting this ethos with gusto, as without their support this change would never have happened. Being a director now means being responsible and accountable which can only be a good thing for the station.

The board quickly realised the need for policies and procedures to be drawn up and adopted, so that we had a uniformed, agreed, approach to dealing with things, for everything from training to music scheduling etc. Thanks to Ken, we now have a documented induction program (with all current presenters trained / no mean feat) which ensures all presenters / members are aware of the stations rules and regulations, aware of our legal and requirements and how best to deal with any issues that may arise. This document not only gives the members of the board a guide to follow but also gives all presenters / members peace of mind and understanding. My thanks also go to George who has done a power of work in the scheduling department, producing everything from policies for loading music onto our library, through to procedures for dealing with wayward tracks that have got themselves onto our library. Again all these efforts aid the smooth running of the station.

We have made huge inroads in the policies and procedures, but make no bones; there is still a huge amount of work that needs to be done in this area.

This year also saw MFM take part in the first Coop intern project, this lead to both financial support from the coop and positive PR for the station. This project was Phil's idea and brain child and as such we thank him for time and effort he put into the project on MFM's behalf. Although the project had a number of teething issues, it certainly shows the potential of programs such as this for the future.

My thanks also go to the technical teams; Ian, Tony & Raymond for keeping the transmitters transmitting, while ensuring the Collardo portacabin was wind and water tight before the bad weather. Also the team that just yesterday, spent time getting the Boggarty aerial lifted and changed over, while ensuring the floor in the loft is safe in-case access is required, great team effort and many thanks to Stewart, Steve, Ken, Peter, Tony & Ian. Steve & Tom for hours spent keeping the stations studio technical side running smoothly – I know we still had a few wobbles but I think this has been our most successful year in terms of stability of broadcast. However it's worth noting the equipment is coming to the end of its life cycle and will start needing to be replaced shortly in order to ensure the stability continues / improves, so this needs to be planned and budgeted for.

This year has seen a huge increase in fundraising and thanks must go to Doug, for organising his CD Sales & Disco, November event and of course his Devil Train event as part of his big birthday bash and BAA Donations. Kevin for soliciting a large donation from his employer, Dizzy for his sponsored music marathons, everybody who came along, supported and helped at the snail race night and of course everybody else involved in raising funds for the station. Although we pushed the cash flow to a more positive stance (which is not easy in current climate), the accounts still show a deficit and something which will require more work and support on in the future.

I also have to give a personal thank you to Carolyn, Chrisann and Peter for the support they have provided me over the year. Carolyn took on the secretary's roll, climbed a huge learning curve, and is efficiently ensuring our paperwork is kept in order (and trust me this is not an easy task). Chris Ann as ever has been the financial rock, ensuring bills are paid, bank balances monitored and reconciled and generally keeping everybody's spending inline. Peter for taking on my role at a couple of meeting I was unable to attend and also being there and ready to listen and support wherever it was required.

I firmly believe that the ground work that has been carried out, this year will provide a strong platform that will allow the station to grow.

Annual Accounts

Attached to email

Proposed amendments to Articles

To all Members ,

At this years AGM on 13 Sept 2012, I would like to propose a change to the Articles of Association for Mearns FM.

Under Contents, General, Members, Subscription, articles 2 – 13 point number 8: MembershipSubscription currently states

“No membership subscription shall be payable”

I would like to propose that it is changed to read:

“Membership subscription is paid Annually as set by the Elected Board of Directors and ratified by the membership at each AGM”

Reason behind this proposal

As we now have a membership of approx 60 volunteers, lets assume it was set at £30.00 P/Y then that would give MFM an automatic income of £1800.00

Some examples---- for us using Sky news cost is £300 this year which is a huge jump. Ofcom Licence £750 this year. There are other costs which all have to be met by MFM

I understand that not everybody would fit into the full membership payment bracket so we would have a concession which is half of the main payment, so in our assumed case, would be £15.00 and that would be for age 18 and under, the unemployed etc.

Please take time to consider this and bring any thoughts to the AGM

Kind Regards,

Peter Greig

Proposed concessions

1. All those on income related benefits i.e.
 - Pension Credit Guarantee Credit
 - Jobseekers Allowance (Income Based)
 - Income Support
 - Employment and Support Allowance (Income Related)
 - Housing Benefit
 - Council Tax Benefit
2. Students
3. Apprentices
4. Under 18's

Peter Greig introduced his proposal by saying that he has enjoyed his time with MFM and that it was a privilege being a presenter. He gave thanks to Alan Sanderson for leading MFM. However bills needed to be paid, internet listeners increased but so had the cost of streaming, the licence for Sky news had trebled and the basic annual running costs were about £7629 and there is a constant struggle for money, hence his proposal to charge for membership. He then opened the proposal to the floor.

IH – concerned that charges will exclude those that help out or have a short term interest.
PG – all those that contribute are invaluable, concessions are proposed. Representative members would be free.

NG – could new volunteers be required to give back service/voluntary hours?

PG – this was done in Leith successfully.

NG – membership fees would just give a short term injection of cash.

CAH – it would give members ownership and fundraising has been shown to be less productive than donations.

PG – Previous fundraising had been poorly supported with only a few people at the ceilidh in Aberdeen and the snail racing. We need membership as well as fundraising, we need all money we can raise.

AS – People value what they pay for. He had initially been against it but with the ongoing need for funds he had come round to the idea.

IH – concerned that it would exclude those that came up on holiday and do short spell or those that send in recorded shows. Representative members need to be exempt.

GH – would it put potential presenters off if they have to pay before they are sure they want to do it?

PG - people are welcome to look round and sit in on shows but once they say they want to sign up and be trained then they should pay.

CD - £10 flat fee for everyone would be more fitting.

KV - £10 would not make a difference to the finances.

CD – costs won't be covered anyway so as an introduction it would be better.

JF – we all choose to come and it would be an investment and a sense of ownership.

SH – we are the only community station that doesn't charge membership. Start at £10 will only make it harder to increase.

NG - £30 is a lot for some, will it go up next year?

PG – it will give us a lump of cash.

NG – fundraising needs to continue, will paying subs make people feel they have paid so they do not have to do anything else and so not volunteer?

PG – pushing fundraising with volunteers is a good idea.

IH – need honorary membership for some. Tony Langton pays petrol to come here, he is not presenting, would be an insult to ask him to pay.

SH – costs him to help out each day and he does not present but is willing to pay membership.

DMcK – members are apathetic about fundraising anyway.

MS – why are we spending so much on Sky news when we state we do local news?

Alan Sanderson proposed a vote on introducing Honorary Membership. The Board would propose a person, state the reason for nomination and vote on the proposal. It would be at the discretion of the Board.

Yes – 24, proposal accepted.

Vote to introduce subscriptions.

Yes – 25, proposal accepted.

Vote on £30 charge + concessions.

Yes – 17, not carried.

Vote on £25 + concessions.

Yes – 12, not carried.

Vote on £20 + concessions

Yes – 12, not carried.

Vote on £30 + concessions again.

Yes 20, not carried.

Vote on £10, no concessions.

Yes – 7, not carried.

Vote to let Board decide.

Yes – 26, carried.

Second amendment proposed by Alan Sanderson.

Change membership from being eligible by postcode which has led to confusion to membership being open to anyone who has an interest in Mearns Community Radio.

Membership – Currently membership is restricted to certain postcode areas and it is proposed to open membership to anyone. The proposal is -

“An ordinary member shall be any individual who has an interest in the purposes of MCR Ltd”.

Vote to open up membership to anyone with an interest in MFM.

Yes 27, carried.

Election of Directors

The following were elected as directors on the night.

Person	Department	Proposed	Seconded
Alan Sanderson	Chairman	Ian Hunter	Steve Holt
Peter Greig	Vice chair	Ken Venters	John Forrester
Carolyn Venters	Secretary	Ken Venters	Steve Holt
Chris Ann Holt	Treasurer	Louisa Greenwell	Steve Holt
Ken Venters	HR+Training	Chris Ann Holt	Peter Greig
Ian Hunter	Transmitter	Peter Greig	Steve Holt
Doug McKelvie	Sales & Marketing	Alan Sanderson	Raymond Christie
Steve Holt	Studio & tech	Peter Greig	Carolyn Venters
Greg Hanson	Events	Ian Hunter	Steve Holt
Michael Smith	Scheduling	George Brebner	Chris Dean
Stewart Campbell		Ian Hunter	Ken Venters

George Brebner, Louisa Greenwell and Raymond Christie declined director's posts and stepped down. The Board thanks them for their contributions and hopes they continue to support MFM where they can.

Peter Greig suggested an email to all members to see if any of them would like to be directors.

It was agreed to find someone interested in training up as Treasurer as Chris Ann Holt has tried to step down but felt unable to due to a lack of volunteers to take over. Stewart Campbell will see if his wife might be interested.

AOC

Craig Donald reported that Grampian Hospital Radio is being refurbished. If there is any equipment being disposed of, would we be interested? Answer was yes.

Greg Hanson – communication needs to be improved to get more people involved as he had not received some information about events.

Ian Hunter-can we have meeting dates ahead of time so we can plan for them. Chairman will issue them for six months at a time as last year.

Meeting closed at 21.24