



Reach & Swaffham Prior Community Network

Minutes of the AGM

Tuesday October 25, 2011 at The Dyke's End

Attendees

Bryan Pearson, James Matheson, David Greenfield, Andrew Hall, John Chalmers, Paul Catling, Michael Limb, Tony Jordan, Linda Kirby, Graham Lingley, Kevin Glennon, Nick Acklam.

Apologies for absence

Hugh de Lacy, Jonathan Cook.

Minutes of the previous AGM and matters arising:

The minutes were accepted and approved unanimously:

There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman (BP) reported a generally good year with a successful change of provider from KCOM to Virgin, establishing our own IP range, getting 30Mbps for the price of 20, Virgin's ineptitude aside... This should allow 5Mbps per user.

BP mentioned many activities during the year including Doe's farm - link to the fen and infrastructure upgrades. The technical team has a good core DG, JM, PC with HdL and AH in Reach. Some comment was made about who does and does not climb ladders and BP's own bent ladders.

He said that there was a better spread of support and the way that issues were handled had improved. Most installs are now grade "A", "turn it on and it will work". Power cuts are still causing issues and the Upware support problem is still not solved.

Financially reserves were drained (£) in upgrading infrastructure but the extra subscribers make it worth it.

Challenges:

- spam! (PC had fixed outgoing!),
- more [bandwidth demands] were to come like HD streaming and always would [continue to increase].
(We do have 100Mbps available but we will have to pay for it.)
- Integrity: Firewall Software, physical equipment and so on.
(We are lucky to have the resources inside RaSP that would otherwise have cost any normal organisation...)



Installs are now being done more professionally – some cost up to 2 years' worth of subs so ...

The organisation is still a “dining club” no more done on about this in the year. VAT could be claimed but the committee needs to decide on this in the coming year.

Government money: There is money there but we cannot rely on getting any soon or maybe at all.

BP and others could not operate without RaSP.

Finally - Thanks to the engine!

Secretary's Report

The secretary had nothing to report. (As was not present) BP thanked the secretary for his support to date.

Treasurer's Report.

JC reported on an “interesting year!”. Small dampener was £7 500 reserve was now £1 800 which is mostly owed so current reserves are about zero.

The last 14 months had seen major upgrades, especially to service. £10K had been spent in the last 14 months. There has been some spend on improving the Alvarion kit and the link into the fen but mostly the costs were on new clients and professional installs by Fenway's. There have also been some more expensive new installs (around £300 per client). The 30Mbps backhaul now provided by Virgin is also a major improvement over the 10Mb.

JC mentioned the treasurer should not let reserves fall as low as 0 but it had not been a problem as the new subscribers (greatly helped by the improved service) will quickly recover the situation. Generally we should be £500 better off / month if larger install costs are not too frequent. The average client installation costs are now recovered in 6 months.

JC reported that at the moment we do not have the funds to pay for support, especially with the cost of proposed new firewall(s) and email server. Generally, we will have to be careful for a while. He said that asset value had not been assessed – yet and should make a part of the accounts.

Generally and in conclusion, JC said that it had been a mixed report, that we had done astonishingly well, we spent on infrastructure – and rightly so! Hardware fails may be vulnerability.

The figures (accounts summary) were good. **There were no questions arising regarding the figures.**

BP Asked about members. DG said we had 87 compared to 59 last year. Only 1 was “lost”, the others were due to moving away.



The high Fenway costs for some installations were asked about. JC said that £300 for 1 day was 1 example but the members in question had offered £100 each towards the extra costs involved as they knew it was above the normal installation.

JC says that currently income is greater than expenditure.

BP asked for the consensus of opinion regarding service versus charges prompting a discussion about competition and pricing. TJ and KG talked about educating the members and possible members. TJ asked KG if he would write a magazine article explaining RaSP's service and compare the competition.

JC reminded the meeting that adding new members does **cost** money and we currently have no cost (to the members) for installing kit.

DG asked if we should spend the money to upgrade the 12 members with older kit (smartBridge) and JC asked if we could just stay as we (they) are. NA asked if the Parish Council [some fund they have – see later comment] could help with funding. BP said that the support was not from the Parish Council.

LK offered, on behalf of Spearhead and Lords Ground Farm, to look at financial assistance. As a commercial member they were very pleased with the service and some relevant financial assistance could possibly be made available.

DG reviewed the technical achievements in the past year: mainly the link into the fen and the reliability improvements. Two areas are left to be upgraded:

1. 12 remaining smartBridge members.
2. Firewalls (2 replacements are proposed) and the email server replacement (software and hardware required).

JC agreed that all old kit should be upgraded, as required.

JM asked about Reach amenities fund – “what is it?”

BP also asked about stock, DG said that we have 1 spare CU, 5 WiFi routers and 1 Alvarion.

Election of new Committee

There were no contested posts and all had agreed in advance of the meeting to the posts as follows:

Chairman:	James Matheson
Vice Chairman:	Bryan Pearson
Secretary:	Hugh de Lacy
Treasurer:	John Chalmers

All other committee members agreed to stand as before.



PC proposed and DG seconded the motion to accept the officers and committee as such. Vote: all were in favour.

JM took over the meeting and thanked BP for his excellent service as chairman.

Charges for the forthcoming year

As before it was agreed to leave the committee to set or change the charges as required.

It was also agreed to allow the committee to set install charges (one off at install time) if required.

Election of Auditors

JC said that local accountants would be sought as auditors.

Any other Business

JM raised the issue of support in Upware (lack of it).

There was a vote of thanks and appreciation to the Doe's for allowing the use of their farm for key equipment in the fen.

There was a vote of thanks to Lords Ground Farm for their support in providing the civil engineering for the link in the fen.

NA raised the issue of local help.

JC mentioned that there were still the issues of cooperate identity and VAT registration.

JM Closed the Meeting at 21:45