



Radio Society of Great Britain
Emerging Technology Co-ordination Committee
Minutes of Meeting 9th April 2011
Held At Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel

Present

John McCullagh	GI4BWM	ETCC Chairman
Andrew Barrett	G8DOR	Vice Chair/South West England Regional Manager
Graham Shirville	G3VZV	TV Repeater Co-ordinator
Iain Philipps	G0RDI	RSGB Board Member.
Dave Dawson	G7UZN	South East England Regional Manager
Mark Lewis	GW7KDU	Wales Regional Manager/Secretary
Bob Wilkinson	G3VVT	North England Regional Manager
Darren Storer	G7LWT	UKIT Representative
Jon Lee	G4TSN	Midlands Regional Manager

Via VoIP

Steve Morton	G8SFR	Data Comms Manager
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1: Apologies

Colin Dalziel	GM8LBC	Scotland Regional Manager/Proposals Manager
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2: Chairman's opening remarks

The meeting was opened as usual by the Chairman who welcomed all present and gave a brief summary of events since the last meeting in September.

3: Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of 18 September 2010 were formally accepted and will be published on UK repeaters website.

Action GW7KDU

4: Matters arising

Matters arising – Previous minutes

GB3BW, 23cm Weston-super-Mare: This will not proceed at present due to the primary user not dealing with applications for this band.

On Hold

23cm GMSK repeater for Glasgow: On hold pending primary user processing applications for this band.

On Hold

Site change for GB3CN. On hold pending primary user processing applications for this band. Repeater is currently off air.

On Hold

GB3AT: On hold pending primary user processing applications for this band.

On Hold

70cm repeater (GB3AC) in the Chepstow/Gloucester area: On hold pending primary user processing applications for this band.

On Hold

Ofcom: Abuse complaints policy: There is a particular concern about the level of abuse currently being suffered by GB3DY. Still on going.

Action Ofcom

SE England: Request about the feasibility of a 23cm Parrot box received from G4GBW. This has been passed to the RSGB Microwave Manager G6JYB.

Closed

East Midlands: Application from G7AJP for 4m parrot device. On hold pending primary user processing applications for this band.

On Hold

East Midlands: GB7EN New application Node Northampton. On hold pending primary user processing applications for this band.

On Hold

East Midlands: GB3EM not operational for a very long time. Attempts to contact the keeper have not been successful. The Regional Manager is to pass the details to the Chairman who will liaise with Ofcom to contact the keeper.

Action G4TSN & GI4BWM

East Midlands: GB7IP not operational. Also the associated repeaters GB7IQ and GB7IR have not been brought into service since first NoVs were granted. Ofcom will be requested to issue second NoVs will be issued for all three as there has been sufficient time allowed for operation to commence.

Action GI4BWM

N England: GB3LP. Now on air but G7LWT reports it is suffering with high levels of local interference. The keeper is to be offered help/advice to resolve the problems.

Action G3VVT and G7LWT

N England: GB7SH still not service. The keeper is to be contacted to check the original NoV with a view of returning the repeater to the original site.

Action G3VVT

South Yorkshire Repeater Group, application for a 23cm DV repeater. On hold pending primary user processing applications for this band.

On Hold

GB7HX a new proposed repeater/node for the Huddersfield area. On hold pending primary user processing applications for this band.

On Hold

GB3IT: New 23cms DATV out/FM in application. On hold pending primary user processing applications for this band.

On Hold

A meeting with Primary Users is to be requested via Ofcom.

Closed

Papers detailing how bands/modes (TV, Voice, Digital, Analogue, Packet etc) are typically used. A high level briefing paper has been produced and this has been presented to Primary Users by the RSGB Microwave Manager. The paper will be updated with a results of an audit being performed of traffic in the IO83 area.

Action G7LWT and G7OCD

Matters arising – Agenda points from GI4BWM

Primary Users: 9 and 13 cms bands. On going.

Action GI4BWM

Report from G8SFR re work on restarting UHF clearances: Identification of 70cm repeaters and nodes that are no long in operation as this will further reduce the current noise floor figures. On going.

Action All

G4HPE HF Gateway extension of experiment: Ofcom are happy for this to continue but a specific H/F gateway NoV may be required.

Action GI4BWM/G8SFR

Matters arising – Agenda points from Ofcom

Preparation of a D-Star Users Guide: The guides are currently on the UK IT website. They need to be moved to the ETCC UK Repeater site.

Action G7LWT & GM8LBC

Matters arising – Agenda points from G7LWT

DV coverage of the Potteries and M6:

G8DZJ and UK FM Group Western/DV coverage in the Potteries and M6 corridor. There is still interest in this. G7LWT and GM8LBC are continuing to research the possibilities.

Action G7LWT & GM8LBC

Matters arising – Agenda points from G3VVT

GB3MC/GB3MY: Still not in service, Ofcom will be requested to issue second NoVs.

Action GI4BWM

Matters arising – Exception reports from the Regions

GB3MH: No further action.

Closed

GB3LG still not operational due to site being struck by lightning. On going.

Action GM8LBC

70cm DV unit in the St Austell area: On going, details are now listed in the vetting list on UK Repeaters website.

Action G8DOR

GB3NQ: Application for 23cm TV RX freq change received.

Closed

GB3PL off air for 6 months: The keeper will be contacted once more then if the repeater is not brought back into service a second NoV will be issued.

Action G8DOR

G1BWW – Alderney. 2m/70cm crossband enquiry. Nothing further heard.

Closed

GB3GD & GB3IM-S: Repairs are required and the group have PMR antennas ready to install as soon as weather conditions permit site access.

Action G3VVT

GB3NY: Off air: It is believed that the site has been lost. The keeper will be contacted to determine the exact status and a decision will be taken based on that whether to issue a second NoV.

Action G3VVT

GB3NA/GB7YD/GB3YR

Closed

There is an outstanding information request for the Herne Bay repeater GB7IC site changes. Keeper has been asked to clarify. On going.

Action G7UZN

5: Briefing from G0RDI

G0RDI gave a briefing about the recent departure of Peter Kirby, G0TWW from the post of RSGB General Manager and then answered questions from the rest of the committee.

6: Agenda points from GI4BWM

Ofcom meeting: This was held on 8 April, draft minutes were circulated around the committee table. Our processes are to be documented and the Memorandum of Understanding will be reviewed and reworked prior to the next meeting in June.

Action GI4BWM

7: Agenda points from G7LWT:

Digital Voice NoV Specifications/Standards Digital ATV NoV Specifications/Standards

G7LWT presented his ideas for the harmonisation of digital voice and digital ATV (DATV) standards. He will circulate more detail via email to the committee as soon as possible.

Action G7LWT

8: Agenda points from G8DOR

Allowable 'bells and whistles' for repeaters and gateways: The question of what voice announcements and other 'features' can be implemented has been raised again. The Ofcom view is that only those that are directly relevant to the operation of the repeater/gateway are permitted. Example of these may include location of the repeater, callsign, CTCSS tone frequency etc.

The problem of Internet links keeping repeaters open with non-local traffic was also raised. Priority should be given to local traffic rather than, for example "broadcasting" traffic from international stations.

An enquiry has been received for a wide spaced 6m repeater. This is not an option at present.

9: Exception reports from the Regions

London & SE England:

GB3EL: Has been on air for a day!

GB3AH: Site change, approval imminent.

GB3CC: 70cm site change. On hold pending approvals by the Primary User.

On Hold

GB3OY: New application, 70cm analogue. On hold pending approvals by the Primary User.

On Hold

GB3PB: 2m re-instatement. On going.

GB3PE: New application, 70cm analogue. On hold pending approvals by the Primary User.

On Hold

GB3NU: Application for dual mode received. On going.

Action G7UZN

Wales & Marches

Request for a 2m analogue repeater GB3GS in Shropshire from G1MAW. After analysis the committee decided that there are no channels available even at low power.

South & SW England

GB3AI: Closed down.

GB3SZ: 70cm Bournemouth, on air.

Midlands

Outstanding applications

GB3PN 2m Northampton. The proposed keeper has been informed that there is no frequency pair available.

GB3XD : 6m Louth, currently in clearance.

70cms on hold

GB7CH GB7DC GB7EN

Non operational units

GB3CN 23cms GB3EM 70cm GB3SO 70cm GB7IP 70cm GB7IQ 70cm GB7IR 70cm

North of England

GB3MA/GB3MB: UK FM Group (Western) wish to convert these repeaters to digital mode. G7LWT has taken over as keeper for both and will submit applications in due course.

GB3WY: New 6m repeater near Wakefield in operation

GB3HF: Barnsley 6m, cleared but not on air yet.

GB3YR: Rotherham, closed down, frequency transferred to GB3NA in Barnsley.

GB7YD-C remains on the original frequency (RV54) used by GB3NA.

GB7HU cleared for RB03 as used previously by GB3HU. A new frequency pair in the data section of 70cm will be allocated when agreed with the Primary User.

Report from Northern Ireland

The licensing of GMSK Internet Gateways in GI has raised the profile of D-Star and interest has recently been expressed in establishing a full D-Star node in the Belfast area. As the 70cms frequency clearance issue still continues it is likely that a 2M proposal will be submitted in the near future.

Data

Since the last meeting new applicant activity has been low as a direct result of the "damping down" operation to handle levels of expectation. The published statements from the RSGB have helped to reinforce that the problems are external, although some applicants would like to see the ETCC being more vocal. G8SFR has worked through a number of simplex node applications and a new allocation on 70cm is being considered, to help avoid the low power (key fob) sub-band.

We still have many D-Star nodes on the vetting list, with GB7EN and GB7YD both going back to 2009. The good news is that GB7HU has now been granted as a change of mode for the old GB3HU 70 cm frequencies. GB7HX, GB3MA and GB3MB (new applications) groups are considering the same option for change of mode for existing FM frequencies.

GB7DG-A is not yet active on 23 cm and the NoV holder cannot be contacted for an update.

GB7HX a new proposed repeater/node for the Huddersfield area. Because of the current Primary User problems a request has been received for a change of mode and callsign for GB3HD to become GB7HX. This is being progressed with Ofcom.

Action GI4BWM

TV repeaters

GB3TB: removed from service due to loss of site.

10: Any other relevant business

Closedown – contact information G4YKE, GORDI provided an email address.

11: Date and time of next meeting

Next meeting is provisionally arranged for July 2011 at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel. Timing is dependent on transport arrangements.

Action GI4BWM