



**Radio Society of Great Britain**  
**Emerging Technology Co-ordination Committee**  
**Minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017 Meeting**  
**Held at Hilton Metropole, Birmingham**

**Present**

John McCullagh	GI4BWM	ETCC Chairman
Colin Dalziel	GM8LBC	Scotland Regional Manager/Proposals Manager (via Skype)
Dave Dawson	G7UZN	South East England Regional Manager
Mark Lewis	GW7KDU	Wales Regional Manager/Secretary
Steve Morton	G8SFR	Data Comms Manager (via Skype)
Andrew Barrett	G8DOR	Vice Chair/South West England Regional Manager
Noel Matthews	G8GTZ	TV Manager
Bob Wilkinson	G3VVT	North England Regional Manager
Jon Lee	G4TSN	Midlands Regional Manager

**Apologies**

Stewart Bryant	G3YSX	Board Member
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**1: Chairman's opening remarks**

GI4BWM opened the meeting by welcoming all and reflected that it has been over two years since the ETCC held its last "in person" meeting.

**2: Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were formally accepted. These are to be published on the [UK repeaters website](#).

**Action GW7KDU**

**3: Matters arising**

*Matters arising – Minutes of last meeting*

Minutes were published [here](#).

**Closed**

*Matters arising – NoV Renewal review and actions required.*

Follow up of non-renewed NoVs

**Closed**

**4: Ofcom update**

GI4BWM gave an update on the latest meeting with Ofcom. Various issues were discussed including the lack of progress on 23cm applications and difficulties experienced since the relocation to Warrington.

## **5: Regional/Specialist reports**

### ***North of England***

GB3FO: Application waiting for the applicant to confirm switch on operator details. If nothing heard within a month the application will be put on hold.

**Action G3VVT**

GB3SJ: A channel will be allocated that will provide only 12.5kHz separation from adjacent channel repeaters (see AOB for details below).

**Action G3VVT**

GB7WI: Awaiting copy of applicant's licence.

**Action G3VVT**

### ***South West England***

Application received for a 2m Fusion repeater from G4SUH to cover Cheddar, subsequently withdrawn and 70cm application was submitted instead. That was cleared (as GB7PM) but the repeater is still not on air.

GB7JI: Application for digital repeater for Jersey has been processed and sent to Ofcom.

### ***South East England***

Nothing exceptional to report apart from continued abuse of some repeaters.

### ***Wales/Marches***

Several applications received for 70cm and one for 23cm. The 23cm application will not be processed until the current backlog (oldest 50 months in clearance) starts seeing progress.

### ***Midlands***

Two applications received a few days apart from different people requesting the same callsign (GB7CV) and covering a similar area. The applicants have been contacted and they have said that they will work together to resolve the issue. If they fail to reach agreement the first application received will be processed with the chosen callsign.

GB7ST: The keeper, G8NSS wishes to try some experimental equipment on the repeater.

### ***Northern Ireland***

Several applications received and processed mainly for DMR.

### ***Scotland***

The committee was sad to hear that the keeper of GB7TT, Alastair GM4XRY tragically died in a house fire in early November. The repeater was housed at the address of the fire and it is presumed that it has been destroyed.

### ***Data modes***

There has been a resurgence of interest in packet radio in a few areas of UK. Applications are being received but no details of what they are linking too are being included. It appears that they are connecting to stations that are operating digi-peaters outside of their licence conditions. The Chairman and G8SFR will draft an article for RadCom/GB2RS to explain the restrictions in the new life-time licence with respect to the handling of third party traffic by packet radio stations.

**Action G8SFR and GI4BWM**

## **Television**

Problems on 23cm still persist.

An application for a 3.4GHz repeater in the Wirral was cleared but subsequently the site was lost.

## **6: Blackpool repeaters GB7FF/GB7FO**

GB7FF and GB7FO are two digital repeaters on the same site operating through a combiner and a common antenna. One is Fusion and the other DMR. Both have the same keeper. An application has been made to make the Fusion repeater (GB7FF) dual mode analogue/digital. To be consistent with other dual mode analogue/digital repeaters a frequency change to a 7.6MHz split RU channel is required as the existing 9MHz split DVU channels are restricted to digital only. A suitable RU channel has been found with the close down of GB7FC though this could be difficult to implement as the DVU and RU channels are reversed with each other. This would result in the transmit frequency of GB7FF being close to the receive frequency of GB7FO. This would cause difficulties in filtering for use with a single antenna. The solution for this could be to move GB7FO to an RU channel also. This is currently being evaluated.

**Action G3VVT**

## **7: Status Updates**

G7UZN requested that when user status update reports are received that regional managers contact the keeper to validate the report.

**Action All**

It was also noted that when a change of keeper is processed that the status was changing to licensed. In future if there are no other factors that affect the status of the repeater it should remain unchanged.

**Action GM8LBC**

G8GTZ will take on responsibly of maintaining the TV repeater statuses

**Action GM8LBC/G8GTZ**

## **8: AOB**

Discussion about 12.5kHz channel/adjacent channel interference. It has been a long time since 12.5kHz channel spacing was applied to the 2m repeater channels. The ETCC has avoided allocating channels where there is a risk of adjacent interference due to out of specification user equipment. This is causing difficulties with spectrum management so in future the policy will be that adjacent channel allocation is to be avoided where possible but where necessary a channel will be selected that will only be 12.5kHz from a neighbouring repeater. This will also be considered for RU channels on 70cm.

G3ZVI enquired about the possibility of a 4m "parrot box" in Exeter. This has now changed to 6m. If an application is submitted it will be processed.

**Action G8DOR**

## **9: The Future**

The ETCC Chairman announced that he would be stepping down in the near future. It was likely that in any case a new policy of tenure for officers would be introduced. He would be working with the RSGB Board to identify a new chairman.

**10: Date of next meeting**

A virtual meeting via Skype is expected to be held during February 2018. A date is to be arranged in due course.