

ESSEX REPEATER GROUP
MINUTES OF THE 2018 AGM



Date: 18th October 2018, 20:00hrs
Venue: Danbury Village Hall

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Bob Cheverall M0DTA, Roy Knight 2E0KWG,

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

Acceptance of the draft 2017 AGM minutes was proposed and were approved for placement on the ERG website

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A very good evening to you all and thanks for come to the AGM, without your support there would be no Essex Repeater Group and no repeaters !!

This will be my last speech to you as your chairman as after nearly 3 years in the role I have decided to stand down as chairman and as a committee member. As most of you know as well as chairman I'm also the ERG technical person who fixes the repeaters should they breakdown. It is this technical work that I don't have the time to fully commit to anymore and I'm concerned that a major breakdown of GB3DA would put too much pressure on me. So I have decided that the time is right to take a step back and let someone else take over the technical work and the chairperson role. I wish whoever takes over from me the best of luck (in the nicest possible way).

Since I took over as chairman the group has had a number of challenges, after the death of our dear friend Clive we had to find homes for ZP and IDA and also the 10 GHz propagation beacon CMS.

Finding a location for a repeater is a difficult task and can be a costly process with potentially planning permission required and a lot of work finding and getting permission from the landowner. Luckily after looking at a number of possibilities we chose the current location. Which has the advantage of free high speed broadband, free electricity and no rent, we can't lose.

So what about the future?

We need to replace DA with a new unit and some work has been done on this, the new DA will become the standard for a ER replacement. The current ER needs to be repaired as the transmitter has a drift issue. ZP's antenna needs replacing (we have the new antenna) and CMS requires a radome for the antenna and a PA for the box.

It just leaves me to say a very big thankyou to the current committee for this year's hard work and hand you over to our Hon Secretary Murray.

4 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Honorary Secretary gave the following report to those present:

Good evening and Thank you. Many thanks for attending and supporting the group

Firstly I think I need to place on record my thanks to Andy and Ann for doing a sterling task over the past five years. Andy first stepped into the breach in Sep-2015 as acting ERG Chairman when Clive G1EUC became a SK. However the contribution dates back further, with Ann being Treasurer since 2013 and Andy joining the committee at the same time. Joel has also done a great job acting as Membership Secretary – which certainly has helped share the burden. It is of course critical that new volunteers step forward so that the group can continue – it's up to you!

Looking back over the year, in terms of traditional secretarial work, it's been fairly quiet for me with the usual committee agendas and minutes. On events, we have some concern with the change to Canvey Rally – hopefully it will work out and you will be able to find the new venue!

Meanwhile extensive technical effort has continued to go into the IT side of MB7IDA and GB7ZP. Their entire network has been rebuilt over the past year with the inevitable hiccups along the way. One of the more visible benefits is the pseudo static IP address lets you see the gateway DPlus status page for what recent users and current reflector are connected.

However we are now at the point of changeover for ZP which is going to be an 'educational experience' – so be please be patient if you get an outage.

It is also likely the case that the new Linux controller and Centos-7 operating system will need to be rebooted more regularly for its security updates, so we shall try to get that scheduled at some unearthly hour of the morning

There is though one other piece of Secretarial work that has occurred. During the year I received a reminder about the old equipment fund surplus from the 1999 Test Equipment Sales which had been left on deposit. Interest had helped it over the years and having stopped it be snaffled as a dormant account it has been transferred into the main repeater accounts – so it looks like a big change during the year, but it won't happen again!

Overall we have done quite a bit but the pressure on spare time is severe and I again hope that you will come forward and volunteer to help out

Murray G6JYB, Hon Secretary

5 HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

You should have a copy of this year's statement of accounts on your chair if not please share with your neighbour.

As you can see from this yearly statement the books closing figures are up on last year's closing balance, this is due to additional income to the Business account via a transfer from a historic account to the amount of £2 731. 71 (see Murray's clarification on this above)

Subscriptions from both the AGM and Canvey Rally have remained fairly constant this year but sadly additional subscription payments throughout the year have fallen as has PayPal which also marginally fell.

There has been no large expenditure this year - only standard insurance and admin running costs. Items included the usual RSGB subscription/insurance and £109-90 for a new antenna

Should anyone wish to view the Accounts please ask and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have. This concludes my report for this past year.

Ann M6INE, Hon Treasurer

6 ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE

The old committee stood down. Murray first asked for any other nominations for Chairman or other volunteers. There being none, a block vote was then taken for the new committee as per the original AGM calling notice. This was unanimously approved as follows:-

Post	Candidate	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	? - vacancy		
Hon. Secretary	Murray Niman G6JYB	Kristian M0SSK	Joel G0URK
Hon. Treasurer	? - vacancy		
Ordinary Members	Joel Alderman G0URK	Andy G1GKN	Murray G6JYB
	Kristian Baker M0SSK	Murray G6JYB	Andy G1GKN
	Bob Cheverall M0DTA	Kristian M0SSK	Roy 2E0KWG
	Roy Knight 2E0KWG	Joel G0URK	Bob M0DTA

All as per AGM Calling notice

Post meeting note: David M1DOZ volunteered at the end of the evening – many thanks!

7 ELECTION OF THE AUDITOR

It was again proposed that formal auditing was longer necessary –

8 SUBSCRIPTION RATE FOR 2018/19

The Treasurer commented that the current £12 subscription rate (with a default option of £15 if donations are added) continued to be successful and that increases might be counter-productive. Thus the proposal was to maintain the current level of £12pa

This was warmly welcomed by all present and passed unanimously

9 DISCUSSION / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Whilst no volunteers came forward for officer's posts, there was a discussion regarding the resources available and future direction. Amongst other points made:-

- Membership-wise, Joel indicated ERG was relatively healthy at 50 members
- Overall bank balances were healthy, so using some towards say a Yaesu DR2 repeater rather than homebuild should be considered as it may also mitigate the lack of local electronics expertise
- GB3DA was left de-sensitised by the GB3ER outage (currently under repair)
- The lack of internet on the GB3DA/ER site undermines prospects for newer linked systems (Whereas MB7IDA and GB7ZP which are linked are relatively busier)

The meeting closed, followed by raffle, socialising and refreshments.

Next AGM is on Thu Oct-17 2019 (7:30 for 8pm) at Danbury Village Hall.