

UPLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Assembly meeting of 20 April 2017 held at Upleadon Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr M Manning – Chairman, Cllr H Dunn, Cllr P Dallow, Cllr T Webster

There were approximately 30 members of the public present

2.0 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence – Cllr Mrs A Bassett, District Cllr P Burford

2.1 Cllr Manning introduced Ms Erica Stanford from Voneus Ltd who was in attendance to discuss with Parishioners the possibility of bringing superfast broadband to Upleadon and neighbouring areas.

Erica explained her company could build a superfast fibre broadband infrastructure in the village. Broadband could be obtained wirelessly from a mast high point which would shoot to another mast with min-relays inbetween. It would work on a line of sight system. Speeds would be expected of 50 meg upwards 24/7. The cost to build is average £60,000. It needs at least 65 people in a given area to sign up to it to make it viable and for Voneus Ltd to break even. It would take four months to have up and running. They would firstly need to undertake a survey to check lines of sight, location for masts etc. The cost - £20 per month with a 20 mg data cap or £34.99 per month unlimited. There is an installation charge typically £150.00 although most people with very slow speeds would probably be eligible for a government subsidy which would enable installation cost free. There is a minimum contract of 24 months and a £50 administrative charge to new occupiers if one moves house.

Erica went on to explain that this installation would be totally independent of BT. Telephone numbers can be kept the same, no further costs on line rental. Fibre is everywhere – not a problem to connect. Eighty to ninety per cent of properties can connect easily, they will survey other properties if more difficult. The masts cost £3000 each – and relays can shoot at 360 degrees. The weather does not affect the masts. Any building that supports a mast gets a monetary contribution and free internet.

Members of the public asked various questions appertaining to the reliability of the broadband, the size of the masts, etc and where they could see them elsewhere. Erica advised she would give contacts in this regard.

Erica asked those present to give a show of hands to express their interest at this stage and also to complete a form with their details. The majority of those present gave a positive indication of their interest. Erica reminded the Council and everyone present they needed at least 65 people in the area to make the project viable and urged everyone to spread the word.

Cllr Manning thanked Erica for attending the meeting and giving her presentation to the public and it was hoped that some progression could be made in getting better broadband provision for Upleadon in the near future.

2.2 Approval of Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Assembly held on 7 April 2016

Cllr Manning proposed approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Annual Assembly meeting of 7 April 2016 which was unanimously agreed.

2.3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

2.4 To receive questions from the public regarding the Council's activities during the financial year 2016/17 and any issues relating to parish matters

There were no questions raised

2.5 Any Other Business

The Chairman announced a number of forthcoming events to be held at the Village Hall.

This concluded the business of the meeting and it was declared closed at 8.30 pm