

**Minutes of Board Meeting for
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd
Meeting held at Dervaig Church Hall at 7.30 on Monday 22nd February 2010**

Present: Colin Morrison, John Morrison, Peter Pinnington, Ailsa Morgan, Catriona Duncan, Chris Baker and Ann Evans (Company Secretary).

In Attendance: Ian Hepburn (Development Manager), Belinda Hale (Administrator).

1. Welcome: Two guests from the HIE were welcomed to the Meeting, Claire Hannah and Helen McDougall.

2. Apologies: Alex Duncan, Calum Duffy.

Election of Office Bearers: Colin Morrison was unanimously re-elected as **Chairman**. There is no Vice Chairman this year. Ann Evans accepted a nomination by CM, seconded by JM to remain as **Company Secretary**. John Morrison was re-elected as **Treasurer**, nominated CM, seconded AM. He asked for it to be noted that he would only continue for two more years. It was also unanimously agreed that Adam Dawson and Ailsa Morgan be reappointed as Co-opted Directors.

3. HIE Briefing. Claire Hannah was visiting as part of the ongoing monitoring of our milestones and outcomes. She notified us that from June 2010 the Lottery will manage our grant funding directly. CH will try to give us as much notice as possible of procedural changes and also reminded us that our Revenue Funding Grant expires early in 2011.

Helen McDougall then explained that GCA had traditionally supplied grant funding reactively but now they were account managing community groups to encourage self sustainability. A three year client development plan could be devised to help with guidance, consultancy work, feasibility studies creating a more pro-active relationship. HM will not be available until April but it was agreed that she will send some information and case studies and contact us for a meeting when she is free.

4. The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 25th January 2010 were signed by CM as a true record of the proceedings.

5. Matters Arising. CM will write to Matthew Reade to thank him for all his input and work as a Director. CM will speak informally to Guy Bolton, when an opportunity arises, on the subject of Rough Shooting. **Action CM.**

Cycle Paths. IAH and AM are making site visit tomorrow (23/02/10).

100 Club. JM and BH are having meeting tomorrow to finalise details for Draw on Friday.

Sage. IAH and BH to put accounts on Sage next week.

Carbon Offset. IAH has established that payments are not made to landowners who have an obligation to replant. The Forest Crofts are not subject to the Forest Design Plan so crofters may be able to form their own co-operative of 10+ hectares and claim.

Company Secretary. As more projects progress the role of the Company Secretary will increase and become clearer. In the meantime it was agreed that Ann Evans will be invited to all Board Meetings and be given regular information updates.

6. Declaration of items not on the Agenda. AM had been approached by Caroline Wood who is interested in starting a tree nursery. She is to be invited to put her proposal in writing and have a meeting to discuss things. **Action AM.**

Woodland Accreditation. JM pointed out that to sell timber at commercial rates this is essential. The application and ongoing costs are considerable but unavoidable. Tilhill have agreed to advance the necessary funds and assist in gaining the accreditation. It was unanimously agreed that we must go ahead. **Action IAH.**

First Aider. Now that Michelle has left there is no qualified first aider. MICT have indicated that they may be running a Red Cross course soon. BH has volunteered to train as first aider and will either go on the MICT course or find another suitable one in the near future. **Action BH.**

Dave Thomas has made some proposals concerning a recreation project on land near Kengharair. CB declared an interest as immediate neighbour. **Action IAH** to talk further with DT.

7. Finance Report. JM had previously circulated his report to the Directors.

8. Development Manager's Report. IAH highlighted the delays to the Haul Route caused by the sale of some important land. There is now likely to be a cost for the servitude. Tilhill have offered to put up the money but have negotiated a higher management fee in exchange for their co-operation.

Micro Hydro Generation. The report received from Baby Hydro suggests that the project could well be viable. In order to move the project forward it was agreed that a further detailed feasibility study was required and funding for this will be pursued via Community Energy Scotland. It was agreed that the project should be given a high profile at the Open Day with an invitation being extended to Baby Hydro and Felix Wight from CES to answer questions. **Action IAH.**

9. Sub Committee Reshuffle. A quick review was made of which Directors were on the various sub comms.

Sawmill/Woodmizer: JM,IAH, MR (who wishes to continue in this role).

Housing: CM,JM,AE. AM volunteered to join.

Forest Management: AD, CD, PP.

Crofting: MR, CM, AD. IAH sits in on meetings.

Woodfuel: MR, JM, AD, PP.

AAR: JM, CM, AM, CD.

At the point when there is an energy sub com CB expressed an interest.

10. Sub Committee Reports. AAR. AM brought us up to date with progress on cycle tracks. She and IAH to meet Emma Guy at Glentress. They will look at that project and discuss funding. Other topics will include skills area, all age facilities, insurance, maintenance, health and safety etc. The next stage will be for Emma to be invited up here. **Action AM, IAH.** CH suggested asking if Glentress is income generating as HIE are more likely to support the scheme if it will make money. Tom Reade had organised a survey at school for AM to collate. He is also to be thanked for his hard work and initiative. **Action AM.**

Forest Crofts. CM is to look over the legislation and ensure we are on track with all recent legal changes. **Action CM.**

11. Fundraising. JM suggested this is a bit ad hoc at the moment and would benefit from a designated person co-ordinating all fundraising efforts, seeking out new ideas and encouraging people to raise money on our behalf. Now our grant aid is coming to an end this income stream is very important. Catriona Duncan volunteered for the role.

12. Wildlife Week. This all island event commences on May 8th and the Board was requested to think of ideas for our participation. These could be discussed with CatD, or brought to the next meeting. A BBQ at West Ardhu, possible involving the school was suggested.

13. Open Day. It was decided to concentrate the event into two sessions, one afternoon and one evening for about two hours each. Saturday 17th April was agreed with sessions from 3pm – 5pm and 7 pm – 9 pm. Tea and cakes to be served at the former and wine and nibbles at the latter. There will be displays of all current projects. Colin Morgan and PP will help with materials. Also PowerPoint presentations and plenty of Directors to talk about what we are doing. AM suggested arranging some cycling coaching on the football pitch. The Village Hall was chosen as the venue. **Action BH** to book.

14. Correspondence. A letter had been received from Roseanne Cunningham thanking everyone she met when she visited Mull in January. BH has drafted a Newsletter for the Directors to comment on. It will be circulated by email. **Action BH.**

15. Any Other Competent Business. It was agreed that Alex Duncan be asked to survey the fencing at Kengharair and estimate what is needed for the repairs. **Action IAH** to speak to Al.D.

CH said HIE may be able to offer support to Value Added projects with market research and other assistance. PP to keep her informed of progress.

16. The next meeting will be held on Monday 22nd March 2010 at 7:30 pm in Dervaig Church Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.