

**Minutes of Board Meeting for  
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd  
Meeting held at Dervaig Church Hall on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2011**

**Present:** Colin Morrison, Pete Pinnington, Alex Duncan, John Morrison, Alistair Scarlett, Calum Duffy, Catriona Duncan, James MacPhail, John Addy, Iain Thomson and Ann Evans (Company Secretary).

**Also Present:** Ian Hepburn (Development Manager).

1. CM **welcomed** everyone to the Meeting

2. There were **apologies** from Ailsa Morgan and Belinda Hale (Administrator). AE volunteered to take the Minutes in the absence of BH.

3. The **Minutes** of the meeting held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February were signed by CM as a true record of the proceedings.

4. **Matters Arising.** Enquiries had been made re CD taking a Trainers Course for Chainsaw Training. It takes up to 12 months and will cost c£2000.00. Claire Hannah is prepared to consider some funding towards this but there are several issues that need to be resolved including the potential benefit to CD's own business. **Action CD** to progress and liaise with IAH/BH re funding negotiations.

John Caskie has been notified in writing of the Board's decision at the last Meeting about the Haul Route payment. No reply has been received to date.

The Bingo Night raised £215.00 and CD was thanked for her efforts. A reminder was given that using the BuyAt link on our website currently raises £100.00pa and this could be increased considerably if more people used it.

5. Rough Shooting, Co-option of Director and Sea Eagles were **declared** as **items not on the Agenda**.

6. JM had previously circulated a **Finance Report**. Cash flow is reasonable at the moment but IAH continues to explore options for an extension of Big Lottery funding.

As the Micro Hydro consultation is progressing well IAH suggested applying for Planning Permission and funding side by side as both may take some time and the potential boost to funding is required as soon as possible. He also suggested speaking to Tilhill about some bridge funding on timber sales **Action IAH** on both.

The Clydesdale Bank has once again tried to put charges on the bank account. JM has reiterated to them that the agreement is that we don't pay charges if the account remains in the black.

When the lease for Office space in the Church Hall comes up for renewal in August the rent will be increased.

7. **Development Manager's Report** (previously circulated). As a cheque has already been issued to Helen MacKay in line with the agreement made with her father, her request for further compensation was refused by the Board. **Action IAH** to write.

Enquiries about the use of Sitka as a building material are progressing well and IAH has a meeting with Andy Knight shortly.

**8. Dervaig Motors/Campsite.** Details of the issues to be discussed had previously been circulated by IAH. After careful thought it was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Planning Department at Argyll and Bute expressing concern about:

- a. Site access and the Haul Route
- b. Lack of provision for Visitor Parking
- c. Clarification of Parking Facilities
- d. Adequate Water and Sewage
- e. Scale of development affecting traffic to and from the site **Action IAH** to write.

**9. AAR Sub Committee Report.** An outdoor meeting had been held to walk the route and identify suitable rest and picnic sites. Final requirements to be identified by late April **Action AM**.

**10. Fundraising.** IAH suggested that at least as much time should be spent on promoting fundraisers as is spent on planning the actual event. Ideas put forward to address this included more advance publicity, personal emails, accessing other local email resources to get the message to more local people and more personal promotion by the Directors to their friends, families and contacts.

It was suggested that a Woodland Gala Day is held with ideas (which should be forwarded to BH) to be brought to the next Meeting so the event can be planned. **Action BH** to put on next Agenda and collate suggestions. Other fundraising suggestions were a Whist Drive or Beetle Drive.

**11. Charcoal Burning Course.** PP had attended and believes this has potential as a source of income. The new Forest Croft sites will have a lot of brash and PP now has the knowledge to assist in setting up this project. The Trainer has also agreed to come over and give support if necessary. Charcoal can be sold to forges and for barbeques. This is potentially something that could be organised and run by a co-operative of the Forest Crofters with assistance from PP.

**12. Correspondence.** A letter had been received from Janna at Round and About asking if NWMCWC wishes to be involved in a Community Wind Farm Project. **Action IAH** to reply saying we have to reflect the views of our Community which have already been expressed.

Dervaig Primary School thanked NWMCWC for their support with opposing the closure of Mull Schools. They hope their strong links in the community will continue to keep the School viable.

It was agreed to renew Associate Membership of DTA @ £50.00.

**13. Any Other Competent Business.** IAH had a meeting with Paul Chauvet about **Rough Shooting**. He was suggesting a very small scale operation and fee. Guy Bolton is not interested at all so it was agreed not to pursue this any further at the moment. IAH and Paul also discussed Deer Management. **Action IAH** to follow up.

An email has been received from Dave Sexton (RSPB) saying that a young pair of **Sea Eagles** has been displaying nesting behaviour at a site in our woodlands. It appears to be an area scheduled for retention and the Haul Route is outwith the potential exclusion zone. It is not confirmed that the birds will nest here and Dave is keen to liaise with NWMCW on any further developments.

Chris Baker has said he would be happy to be **co-opted as a Director**. This was agreed by the Board. **Action BH** to reregister him with Companies House.

**14.** The next Board Meeting will be held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in Dervaig Church Hall.

The Meeting closed at 10.00pm.