

**Minutes of Board Meeting for  
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd  
Meeting held at Dervaig Church Hall on  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2013**

**Present:** Colin Morrison, John Addy, Andy Mayo, Neil Munro and Iain Thomson

**Also Present:** Ian Hepburn (Development Manager) and Belinda Hale (Administrator and Company Secretary).

1. CM **welcomed** everyone to the Meeting.
2. There were **apologies** from John Morrison.
3. The **Minutes** of the Board Meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March were **signed** by CM as a true record of the proceedings with one minor amendment.
4. **Matters Arising.** IAH has checked with our insurers and contacted the local farmer to explain that our insurance doesn't cover his stock unless we are at fault. CM has responded to the local resident's email.
5. Five **items** were **declared** that do not appear on the **Agenda**. i. Scavenger Licences, ii. CLS Conference, iii. Directors, iv. Dervaig toilets, v. School parking area.
6. The **Finance Report** had previously been circulated by JM and it was agreed that there was nothing in it that required discussion in his absence.
7. The **Development Manager's Report** had been circulated by IAH. There has already been a repeat order for bulk fuel wood and the market looks promising as NWMCWC are the only business on the Island with 2 year old stocks.  
Argyll and Bute Council (A&B) are still considering the Micro Hydro planning application. IAH is negotiating with SEPA about possible mitigation for the matters they have queried. IAH has also contacted SSE about the capacity that has been freed up by the withdrawal of the Clachan Seil scheme. It is likely that we will get our output allowance increased to the full export potential.  
The RSPB is dealing with the possible disturbance of the white tailed eagles (WTE) nesting at Kildavie. A meeting is to be arranged to discuss the formalisation of any archaeological work at the settlement. Action IAH to contact Bidy Simpson for a suitable date and arrange for others to attend as previously discussed. It was agreed that the meeting should be during an evening so as many Directors as possible can attend.
8. **Forest Croft.** The Directors looked at the previously agreed allocation process and were happy that it still provides a fair selection process for Croft Seven. A draft advertisement was discussed and agreed. **Action BH** to place the advertisement in the June issue of Round and About, on the website and as posters locally. It was agreed the last date for applications should be 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013.
9. **Micro Hydro** had already been discussed in item 7.
10. No progress this month re **Housing**.
11. **Invitation to Sawmill.** It was agreed that a visit would be both interesting and useful. CM offered the use of the Turus Mara minibus and it was agreed that some Members might like to accompany the Directors and staff. **Action IAH** to accept the invitation in principle for late September/early October with numbers to be confirmed nearer the time.
12. **Kildavie and the WTE** had been discussed in item 7.
13. **Firewood and Bulk Fuel.** An opportunity to increase the woodfuel operation exists with possibilities for both domestic and bulk sales. Action CM to follow up a possible lead for bagged firewood sales and Action IAH to progress the bulk fuel side.

**14. Correspondence.** Some neighbours have requested repairs to walls and fences. Action IAH to ask Matt Reade if he will rebuild the drystone wall. Although in most cases the cost of fence renewal would be shared, NWMCWC had envisaged this work being carried out at the same time as replanting in 4 years time. Ideally the fences should just be repaired for now. **Action IT** to have a look at all the fences and give an estimate of what is required.

A local resident wrote on 16<sup>th</sup> April saying she had not been receiving Minutes and Newsletters by post since she informed us that she doesn't use a computer any more. The letter also queried names not being used in Minutes published on our website and letters not being included. **Action IAH** to respond explaining that we do not mail Minutes and Newsletters for reasons of cost, but that they can be viewed on our noticeboard as well as online. A further letter was delivered by hand on the morning of this Board Meeting addressed to the Directors. It was agreed that there was not time to discuss such a long letter at this time so it will be deferred until the next Board Meeting. **Action IAH** to include this information in his response to the letter of 16<sup>th</sup>.

IAH informed the Board that he intended to write to Round and About in a private capacity in response to a letter previously published. They are happy for him to do this but appreciated being given the opportunity to comment.

**15. Any other competent business.** i. **Scavenger Licences.** Some local people have asked about scavenger licences for the clear felled area of Langamull North. In principle the Directors have no objection to this but agree that it must be tightly controlled. **Action IAH** to check the Forestry Commission's policy on this. **Action BH** to put on the next Agenda for a fuller discussion.

ii. **CLS Conference.** The Community Land Scotland Annual Conference will take place on Skye in June. As no Directors are free to attend it was agreed that the opportunity should be offered to Members. **Action BH** to circulate details.

iii. **Directors.** As Director numbers are quite low at the moment it was agreed that it would be useful to co-opt a couple more people onto the Board if anyone expresses an interest.

iv. **Dervaig toilets.** Mary Jean Devon has not been able to move things forward and has suggested a direct approach to A&B. **Action IAH** to see how things could progress.

v. **School parking area.** A&B have indicated that they have no objection to the improvements to the parking area opposite Dervaig Primary School, but as there has been a complaint retrospective planning permission may be required. It was agreed that it is up to the School to do this. A&B may be prepared to tarmac the area, but again it was agreed that the School should make the arrangements, not NWMCWC.

**16. The next Board Meeting** will be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 7.30pm in Dervaig Church Hall. The Meeting after that will be on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

The Meeting closed at 9.45pm.

## Development Managers Report March 2013

1. **Timber Haul Road** – the road is holding up well given that over 30000 tonnes have been hauled across it but some further repair is now necessary.
2. **Fishnish Fixed Pier** –
  - a. Work on site commenced, Piling well under way and completion still anticipated late June early July
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Pier user group meeting scheduled for Week Commencing 6<sup>th</sup> May.
3. **Timber Harvesting** –
  - a. Harvesting is continuing in Langamull with the harvesting moving towards the B8073 and clearance of crofts 2, 4 and 5 has started.
  - b. The required change to the LTFDP for the harvesting of the Sitka immediately north of the B8073 and west of the haul route and its associated Japanese larch has been approved.
4. **Timber Sales** – Bulk poles have been delivered to Crannich, the Island Bakery and The Dairy with a repeat order already received from the Bakery.
5. **Forest Crofts** - Discussion with the Crofting Commission confirms that it is up to us where we advertise the vacancy and the draft advert will be available at the Board meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April.
6. **Access Feasibility Study** – Priority given to re-instating Kildavie path and creating additional access via the Haul Route hammerhead. All work on hold see item 10 Kildavie.
7. **HIE/FCS 5 year Review meeting**– Agreed with HIE that in principle they would assist with ongoing development of the company in particular the Micro Hydro and Woodland burials – IAH and Andy Mayo will progress this. No progress this month
8. **Medium Term Income** - Woodland Burials – The final clearance of and management of the retention in 915 is now virtually complete. Site walked and preliminary location agreed but a survey to establish soil depth and condition is required preliminary costing for site surveys have been received. White Tailed Eagle activity means that access to the site is temporarily unavailable
9. **Micro Generation – Hydro West Ardhu**
  - a. The connection offer has been received :-
  - b. Connection available May 2014 but with export restriction to 50Kw subject to any reclaimed capacity becoming available or major upgrade to the Taynuilt – Inveraray link. A major wind farm planned for Argyll has been canned, this may free up some capacity for us a decision is expected by the end of April .
  - c. CAR licence - SEPA is subject of some discussion and we have submitted further information and proposed mitigation measures that may result in the planned levels of off take being maintained.
  - d. Further drawings have been requested by A&BC and supplied to them.
  - e. Compilation of a planning application for the new entrance to the West Ardhu – B8073 track at the B8073 is under way. Cost approx £700
  - f. Draw down of all the costs incurred up to the end of January have been received from the CARES loan.
10. **Kildavie** –The White Tails have laid and are incubating, as a result all work and access to Kildavie has been suspended. I will as requested call a meeting with interested parties to agree a way to move forward with Kildavie as a properly funded and structured project under the management of the Company but hopefully utilising the skills and enthusiasm of the volunteers that have been working on Kildavie over the past years.

## **North West Mull Community Woodland Company Limited**

### **Finance Report to 3rd April 2013**

A very early financial statement this month as I shall be off Island for the rest of this month and handover to the new Treasurer has not yet been completed.

#### **General**

Petty cash stands at £6.17.

Cash available is £15,841.83. This balance is after payment of salaries and all other invoices due this week. This balance includes donations received towards the construction of a firewood storage and timber storage shed.

Significant movement during the past 2 weeks was

1) A debit of £1,567.03 to HMRC for 3 months NI & Tax. .

#### **Haul Route**

In the coming months, there will be one further bill related to Servitude final payment to be paid to FCS (£15,000).

#### **Fundraising**

The Directors must continue to focus on future/innovative fundraising activities and / or grant opportunities to help meet upcoming costs.

#### **Upcoming Costs and Receipts**

Apart from salaries and NI and Tax payments over the coming months, further significant costs will be incurred in the coming months re the Haul Route (Servitude as noted above), Mini Hydro, Forest Crofts and Paths and Access projects. Some details noted below:

Mini Hydro - Planning re the access at West Ardhu - approx £700

- Access works at West Ardhu - second quote awaited.

- legal fees associated with the project.

There should be a small receipt in due time re chip and firewood proceeds of sale of the roadline timber.

#### **Short Term Future Financial Position**

Cash remains secure for the next several months.

#### **Trading Company Balance**

Balance stands at around £1,500 with further revenue from firewood sales of approximately £210 shortly due. There will however shortly be a debit of around £600 to cover the cost of Accounts preparation for the Trading Company. Firewood, bulk timber for chipping and log boiler sales will significantly increase over the coming months as new customers' requirements are supplied.

#### **J.N.Morrison - Treasurer**