

**Minutes of Board Meeting for  
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd  
Meeting held at Dervaig Church Hall on  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

**Present:** Colin Morrison, John Morrison, Andy Mayo 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 Addy.
3. The **Minutes** of the Board Meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2013 were **signed** by CM as a true record of the proceedings.
4. **Matters Arising.** JM is to take over following up fuel wood sales opportunities. Matt Reade has agreed to repair the dry stone wall and IT will make a temporary repair to the fence.

CM and AMay are to attend the CLS Conference. IAH has contacted Argyll and Bute Council (A&B) re the Dervaig toilets and is awaiting a response. There has been no progress concerning a formal agreement about the school parking area. **Action IAH** to remind them a signed document is required.

5. Three **items** were **declared** that do not appear on the **Agenda**: i. Visits by Jean Urquart MSP and NFLS, ii. Feedback from Napier University re the secure compound building, iii. Scottish Hydro offer of help with hanging trees.

6. The **Finance Report** had been circulated by JM. This is JM's final report as handover to the new Treasurer Andy Mayo will be completed before the next Board Meeting. The donations for the secure building have been received but although the cash balance looks good this money is ring fenced. IAH has approached UPM Tilhill about receiving around £2000 each month of timber revenue and is awaiting their response. JM has had difficulty accessing the Government Gateway to process the Gift Aid application but hopes to complete it on an office computer in the next few days. Bulk fuel payments are now overdue and reminders have been sent. This money will be transferred from the Trading Company as soon as it arrives. There is the possibility of around £10,000pa if bulk sales go well.

7. The **Development Manager's Report** had been circulated by IAH. Routine road repairs are due and will cost around £10,000 which shows the road is wearing very well considering the amount of traffic using it. The cost will be included in our debt to Tilhill so no cash needs to be found. JM attended the last Pier User Group meeting and is happy with the progress. There is the possibility of sharing a 3000 tonne barge with the users of the Pennygael pier to reduce the costs of shipping pulp wood.

The path to Kildavie needs to be restored now access is no longer restricted. **Action CM** to contact James MacPhail and plan a work party to carry out this work. It may be possible to put up some basic signage without waiting for the management group to become fully effective.

There are still some problems concerning the Micro Hydro. SEPA are making difficulties despite the offers of mitigation IAH has made and he will continue to work with them to sort things out. A&B have changed their way of working and now require plans for the access road. These have been commissioned by the landowner so he needs to be contacted for a progress report.

8. **Micro Hydro.** This has already been discussed under item 7.

9. The **white tailed sea eagles nest** has failed and access to the area is no longer restricted. If the birds build a nest in the woodlands in the future NWMCWC will continue to work with the RSPB and Mull Eagle Watch Partnership and hope for a more positive outcome.

**10. Archaeology/Kildavie.** At a meeting of stakeholders and interested parties last week it was agreed that any archaeology in the woodlands should be managed by a subcommittee under the direct control of NWMCCWC. A further meeting will be held very soon to appoint officers to the committee and plan a detailed management strategy for the future.

**11. Firewood and Bulk Fuel** have already been discussed under other items.

**12. Scavenger Licenses.** IAH circulated the FCS details as guidance on how this might be run. It was agreed that a trial 3 months license should be devised to start with. There will be a written agreement defining a set area where scavenging is allowed. No chainsaws or lifting gear may be used and only reasonable amounts of wood for personal use may be taken. It was agreed to charge £50.00 per person for a 3 months scavenger license invoiced through the Trading Company. **Action IAH/BH** to draft the agreement and advertisement in readiness for when Langamull North is cleared.

**13. Correspondence.** An application form for Salen Show has been received. It was agreed that no stall will be booked this year. Reforesting Scotland has published a colour booklet showing how areas have recovered after storm damage. It is available in the Office.

IAH has had some conversations with residents of Tiroran who have been excluded from the negotiations for a community buyout of the Glen Seilisdeir. He has given them information that is in the public domain but made it clear he can't get involved.

As mentioned in the previous Minutes a letter was received from a local resident on the day of the last Board Meeting and discussion/response was deferred due to its length and detail. The Directors considered all the points made in the letter and made suggestions as to the wording of a response. **Action IAH** to draft a reply based on the Directors' instructions and circulate it for approval prior to despatch.

**14. Any Other Competent Business.** i. Visits. National Forest Land Scheme will be visiting on Wednesday and IAH plans to spend most of the time showing them the woodlands. JM will attend and CM and AMay will try to. Jean Urquhart will be visiting on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 10.30am and has expressed a particular interest in the Forest Crofts. IT, IAH, BH and JM will attend and possibly Steve Maker. Those attending will organise some refreshments. ii. Feedback has been received from Napier University who are suggesting extensive involvement including funding applications etc. JM has concerns that this may cause delays when it is important that the secure building is erected as soon as possible. It was agreed that JM should ask them to comment on the design to start with and give strict timelines for progress. **Action JM** iii. Hanging Trees. Liam Griffin from Scottish Hydro has offered help with clearing hanging trees under a scheme the Hydro has to encourage community work. It was agreed that this would be very helpful. **Action JM** to accept the offer for the wind blow at West Ardhru and blocking the access track opposite Penmore.

**15. The date of the next Meeting** was changed to Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2013 and the one after was pencilled in for 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

The Meeting closed at 9.50pm.

## Development Managers Report April/May 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. The estimated cost of repairs is £10,000 a purchase order will be issued by UPM Tilhill to TSL for day works supported by time sheets up to the maximum of £10K
2. **Fishnish Fixed Pier** –
  - a. Work on site commenced, Piling well under way and completion is now anticipated August. The delays have been caused by technical difficulties during the piling operations
  - b. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Pier user group meeting has agreed a structure and level for pier dues as well as agreeing the need for a formal forward planning system to book in ships and to allocate pier storage space for assembling cargoes. It was also agreed that a weigh bridge will be installed although this will not be ready until after the start of operations the loading equipment at the pier will be able to service vessels up to 3000 tonnes.
3. **Timber Harvesting** –
  - a. Harvesting is continuing in Langamull north with additional activity in the southern block to match demand from the Mills.
4. **Timber Sales** – Bulk poles have been delivered to Crannich, the Bakery and The Cheese Factory with a repeat order already received from the Bakery.
5. **Forest Crofts** – The details of the remaining 5 tenants have been submitted to the Crofting Commission and the relevant adverts will be in the press shortly.
6. **Access Feasibility Study** – Priority given to re-instating Kildavie path and creating additional access via the Haul Route hammerhead.
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.
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 was expected by the end of April I now expect the decision this month.
  - 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 failed in their breeding attempt and the access restrictions have been lifted. A meeting with the Archaeology Group for Kildavie was held last Tuesday and it was agreed that a new group of volunteers would be formed to manage the ongoing processes at Kildavie as a direct sub-committee of the Company. A further meeting to allocate tasks and responsibilities among the group and agree the overall plans for Kildavie is expected to meet in the next three weeks.

## North West Mull Community Woodland Company Limited

### Finance Report to 18th May 2013

A last financial statement this month from me as the handover to the new Treasurer about to be completed.

#### General

Petty cash stands at £6.17.

Cash available is £14,857.26. 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. and covers all receipts and payments up to 18th May 2013.

Significant movements during the past 6 weeks were

- 1) A credit of £3,229.20 being the restructuring grant for harvesting up to 05/04/12.
- 2) A credit of £124.80 for Wayleave annual payment.
- 3) A debit of £308.70 re the School's fruit tree project.
- 4) A debit of £900.00 to Tilhill re the UKWAS accreditation costs.
- 5) A debit of £300 for office rent for the period April - June 2013.
- 6) A debit of £287.76 re Forest Crofts costs.

#### 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 but arrangements are to be put in place to provide for routine monthly costs.

#### Trading Company Balance

Once owings from Crannich and the Bakery are received and the TSL transport bill has been settled, it will be possible to transfer £2,000 as a donation to the Charity account.

Recent firewood sales will generate approximately £160 income, with orders in house which will generate a further £210. Other opportunities to increase firewood sales are being explored.

#### J.N.Morrison