

**Minutes of Board Meeting for
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd
Meeting held on Monday 21st July 2014**

Present: Colin Morrison, John Morrison, Andy Mayo, Ian Hepburn, John Addy, Iain Thomson.

Also Present: Belinda Hale (Administrator and Company Secretary).

1. CM **welcomed** everyone to the Meeting.
2. There were **apologies** from Neil Munro.
3. The **Minutes** of the Board Meeting held on 19th June 2014 were **signed** by CM as a true record of the proceedings.
4. **Matters Arising.** CM is liaising with Roc Sandford about the meeting on Gometra and still hopes to attend.
5. **3 items** were **declared** that do not appear on the **Agenda**. i. Outfall agreement, ii. Woodland burials, iii. Paths/access.
6. **Finance Report.** AM circulated his Report prior to the Meeting. June was a quiet month. The Trading Company has repaid the internal loan from the Charity.
7. **Development Report.** IAH circulated his Report prior to the Meeting. The harvesting contractors for Langamull are due to complete operations in the next few weeks. SSE will fell the red zone around the power lines at no cost to us and the Langamull contractors will complete work along the fence line with our neighbours. It was unanimously agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to the contractors along with a small gift for the two operators. **Action BH** to thank them in the article in the next Newsletter when the change of contractors for West Ardhu is reported. Despite a strongly worded briefing about the protection of water courses in West Ardhu, the new contractors muddied the burn in their first week of operations, affecting a local resident's water supply. The necessary precautions have been reiterated to the contractors. The woodfuel delivery trailer has suffered 2 blow outs recently and requires a set of new tyres. IAH has had a meeting with the winning architect of the 'Our island Home' competition and suggested that a working group is required to move the affordable housing project forward. IAH, CM and JM volunteered.
8. **Woodfuel.** AM went through a profit and loss spreadsheet up to the end of June. Bulk timber deliveries to commercial customers in Tobermory and woodchip to the PCC have helped to cushion the expected summer dip in orders. Now that AQ is doing all the deliveries our cost base has reduced considerably. A review is still required before winter of the best way to manage domestic firewood deliveries. Several Woodmizer orders have been completed. Treshnish has indicated that they may be prepared to take another order of bagged logs. **Action BH** to email and follow this up. It was agreed that a stack of pre bagged cut and split should be prepared and covered.
9. **Planning.** Micro Hydro. All the drawings are now ready and Ronnie Neil will submit the planning application as soon as he returns from his holiday. Housing Plots. The outline plans for the revised housing plots as agreed with the Planning Officers at the meeting last month will be submitted by the end of August.

10. New Development Manager. Four applicants have been interviewed and one selected by the interview panel.

He has been offered the job and his response is awaited.

11. New Website. A first draft has been received by AM who will feed back.

12. Correspondence. An invitation has been received to the Community Woodlands Association AGM and Annual Conference on 23rd/24th August. IAH will be attending and other Directors should liaise with him if they wish to go.

A letter has been received from a local resident following a meeting with IAH re the Micro Hydro weir and harvesting in West Ardhu. He has requested assurances about the protection of his water supply. **Action IAH** to respond to the letter and liaise with Tilhill about the monitoring

13. Any Other Competent Business. i. After a delay the contract and servitude re the new sewage disposal arrangements at a local residential property arrived for signature by a Director. After discussion it was agreed that an additional statement is required to ensure current SEPA guidelines are fully met. **Action IAH** to contact Johnny Bell.

ii. Woodland Burials. There are regular enquiries about the progress of this project. A soil depth survey costing c£5000.00 is required before any development can start. The start up area will then require de-stumping and fencing. It was agreed that it is important to try to find the money for the start up costs of this popular project. **Action IAH/AM** to look at the figures and try to make a plan.

iii. CM suggested that now Langamull harvesting is almost complete it would be a good moment to revisit the Access and Amenity study to see if any parts of it can be implemented.

JM and Basil Barton have renovated the Langamull sign. A work party has made an excellent job of clearing bracken and brash at Kildavie. **Action JA** to contact Bill Patterson about the shed.

14. The next Board Meeting will be held on **Monday 25th August** 2014 at 7.30pm in Dervaig Church Hall. The one after is likely to be held on 22nd September 2014.

The Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Development Report July 2014

1. **Timber Haul Road** – Repair work completed. UPM Tilhill have been asked to arrange the scraping of Langamull North.
2. **Phytophthora Ramorum** – Still awaiting FCS sampling. Latest guidance and licensing would mean that we could use any infected trees on island for woodfuel or sawlogs as long as any co-product i.e. bark, slabs etc was incinerated. No Change
3. **Timber Harvesting Langamull** –The tidy up of Langamull North complete. Work is proceeding in Langamull South and is complete as far as Sitka is concerned. Felling of the Japanese Larch is expected to be completed next week and Colin Brollie's staff will leave site soon after. (discussion needed on letter of thanks etc)
4. **Timber Harvesting West Ardhu** – harvesting commenced last week despite repeated emphasis by IAH during the Pre Commencement briefing on water quality protection and full illustrated precaution instructions being provided we experience a mud contamination incident on Friday 11th July affecting the Ardhu Burn including a residential water supply. The issue was resolved without outside agency intervention but gives cause for concern.
5. **Island Woodfuels**– New operation going well Andy Mayo's report will cover financials. Alan is now carrying out all the woodchip deliveries. Future delivery strategy for solid wood fuel is still to resolve.
Minor hydraulic modification to the tractor now complete so that it can power the Kindla as a 1 man operation. Review needed of the trailers from a maintenance point of view with particular emphasis on tyres as we have recently suffered 2 blowouts as a result of degraded tyres and under inflation.
6. **Forest Crofts** –Crofters meeting scheduled for 11th March resulted in a request that we try to arrange some Technical input to facilitate the Crofters Forest Design Plans. Survey now complete.
7. **Micro Generation – Hydro West Ardhu -**
 - a. Further drawings have been requested by A&BC, will now take forward planning in conjunction with Bruce and Neill.
 - b. Plans will now be submitted mid August
8. **Kildavie** – Further excavation at Kildavie is planned for the late summer, this will be managed by a firm of archaeological consultants under a contract with NWMCWC Ltd.
9. **Rural Housing Scotland - Our Island Home** – IAH met with the winning architect Tom Morton of ARC design along with Jodi McLeod of Rural Housing Scotland 17/07/2014 to update them on the previous board discussions and our progress towards delivering the project. It was made clear that the project would be managed as two phases - infrastructure followed by development and that we would not necessarily use the same architect for both phases. There was a general discussion about the differing possibilities of managing the development and IAH made it clear we were against any form of urbanisation of the PDA i.e. Street lights blacktop and formal pedestrian footpaths and that we were looking for mixed development in terms of housing types etc.
We now need to pull together a working group to move the project forward but it would seem unlikely that we could get a start on site until this time next year.

**North West Mull Community Woodland Company Limited
Finance Report to 30th June 2014**

Current Balance

Petty : £6.17

Bank : £19,535.19

Significant movements since last report

Debits

1. Partial Re-fencing at Langamull £1,605.60

Credits

1. Repayment of short term loan £5,000.00

2. HMRC VAT Repayment £350.01

Upcoming Significant Movements

(excluding regular cost/credits)

1. PAYE Quarterly payment £872.76

Haul Route

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

Trading Company

Current Balance: £2,515.20

Significant Movements:

Sales credits : £9,168.30

Operational debits : £2,081.55

Short term Loan Repayment : £5,000

Charity Management Fees debit: £1,464.00

Andy Mayo