

Minutes of Board Meeting for
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd
Meeting held on Mon 24 August 2015

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

Also Present: Malcolm Ward (Development manager)

1. CM welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies from John Morrison.
3. The minutes of the Board Meeting held on Monday 27 July 2015 were signed by CM as a true record of the proceedings.
4. No matters arising.
5. Items not on the agenda
 - * Langamull Parking
 - * SWMID visit
 - * SRDP Replant
6. The Finance Report had been circulated by AM prior to the meeting. The bank balance is decreasing, as expected, due to payments made for truck, timber and VAT. The balance should increase when the new administrator sends out invoices for payments due.
7. The Development Manager's Report had been circulated by MW prior to the meeting. MW has been informed of a log buyer who had visited the woodland and made an offer to purchase a large quantity at a discounted price. Harvesters met with Dave Sexton of the RSPB and all areas of felling have been agreed and marked out without issue. Identified areas to be removed include 200T from below the Eagle site and an additional area by a neighbouring burn. The issue of remaining roadside larch at Langamull was raised and MW confirmed this was to be retained. SSE are to attempt liveline felling. NWMCWC have requested a shutdown during this operation, but the time frame isn't yet clear, as there are two shutdowns which will be necessary at once. It may prove to be a juggling act, but will not affect the harvesting. MW awaiting response from West, regarding house plots. Plots may be suitable to be pushed locally, as they are in an affordable range, and there are no burdens on the site. Forest Crofters held a meeting, 7/9 crofters and MW also in attendance, to discuss management plans. Kildavie has been cleared, and the bridge has been fixed. A space has been cleared for the tent site, tent is yet to be erected. Wood is to be uplifted for the new shed, but must wait until an operator's license is obtained.
8. Best Practice Policy. The company has previously adopted Forestry regulations and policy, but question marks arose regarding recertification. Volunteers may not wish to repeat training courses periodically. The decision was taken to stick with the original policy, and where possible, training will be advanced to the next level, rather than a refresher course.
9. Housing. The use of electricity from the Micro Hydro was discussed, with the possibility of supplying power to sheds/houses built in the West Ardu area. Details of terms (i.e local letting, etc. to be discussed by the board). IH shall be working on financial budgets in the near future, the board will discuss the strategy for going forward, after the numbers have been worked out.
10. Crofters. The crofters met on Monday 17th August with MW to discuss management plans. MW sent out grid references for each croft, and guided crofters through the process. Initial plans are to be ready for the next meeting, scheduled for October. Final plans are to be submitted by December. Crofters took the decision to start meeting on a tri monthly basis.

11. Forest Design Plan meeting date. The meeting is to take place in November, specific date tbd. Meeting will take place after the budget has been worked out, and will be open to input from the community.

12. Correspondence. None.

13. Any other competent business.

Parking at Langamull has become an issue and the "No Unauthorized Access" sign is repeatedly taken down/missing. Many people are still driving down the track. The sign is to be replaced with a new one, stressing that no unauthorized vehicles are admitted, but foot passengers are welcome.

There were multiple options for stickers for the work vehicles. As there are multiple vehicles, the board opted for a high volume of small A4 stickers, rather than large, wrap around stickers. After the vehicles are repainted next year, a wraparound may be appropriate.

SWMID will be coming for a meeting on September 2nd. If they are DTAS registered, it may be possible for NWM to be paid for the visit.

SRDP replant. Grants are available for re-establishment of Broadleaves. Fencing grants are also available, if there are specific reasons for fencing off specific areas. Small grants are becoming easier to obtain for pathways etc. and will help pick up some of the maintenance costs.

EADHA are looking for pilot sites, to plant Aspen with Sitka. This could be a good option for woodfuel, and there could be a considerable contribution towards planting costs.

As mentioned in DM report, a buyer emerged looking for around 3500 T, at a reduced price. The board decided against the offer on this occasion.

The board is looking at boundaries, and some neighbours have structures on our land. The company will write to two neighbours concerning this subject.

14. Date of next meeting will be Monday 21st September 2015.

Development Report August 2015

1. **Timber Harvesting** – Harvesting in West Ardhu has completed with only residual felling and harvesting around the WTSE nest site. 5712 tonnes of fuel wood remain at roadside. We've agreed to pay 25% of total buy back up front with remainder on account at Tilhill. Harvesting of previous WTSE area of Langamull South is under way and should complete within the week prior to the roadside larch being removed. SSE still to confirm shut down for areas surrounding power line and for their own works.
2. **Housing** – IAH and MW met with Lesley McInnes and Gregor Cameron of WHHA on 4 August to discuss a possible working relationship on the Affordable Housing site. A further meeting is planned for 26 August at Craignure to include other parties from the island. Further discussion required as an Agenda item at this meeting. Plots for sale: Planning request for the 3 Langamull plots is progressing smoothly so far with only routine concerns from parties ie SEPA (flooding) and Environmental Health (water quality). Ronnie Neil expects no issues.
3. **Island Woodfuels – Woodshed:** Design amendments being done by Ronnie Neil prior to approval by engineer and fabrication by supplier. Plant room suppliers proving difficult to engage. Now talking to Reheat regarding plant requirements – information has been received from them but still to be reviewed. **Visit:** Argyll Regional Forest Forum visited Thursday 6 August. Talk and tour were very well received. **Vehicle:** We now own a 7.5t Hino 300 delivery vehicle. IAH collected from Addlestone, Surrey on Monday 17 August with only a minor issue. Driver cards for tachograph have been applied for. Operator's licence was objected to by a resident and Historic Scotland – supplementary info was sent to the Traffic Commissioner and letters and information to the resident and Historic Scotland. AQ and MW attending Driver CPC course week starting 14 September.
4. **Forest Crofts** – 7 Crofts were represented at the follow up meeting on 17 August to discuss management plans. After discussion on plan templates and information required, a first review meeting has been set for 2 November.
5. **Micro Generation – Hydro West Ardhu** – The planning application for the full hydro site has passed through the validation phase (letter received by architect) following a small amendment and has reached the planning committee for consideration.
6. **Woodland Burials** – Still awaiting a quotation from JMCP for groundworks. MW to chase.
7. **Toilets** – Application form completed for third sector transfer and required Business Plan written. Lots of community support pledged. Application to be submitted before A&BC contact returns from holiday.
8. **Kildavie** – Bridge works completed by JA and JM. Full site has had Bracken cleared by JM and MW ready for archaeologists arriving 30 August.

MW 24/07/2015

