

**Minutes of Board Meeting for  
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd  
Meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

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

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

1. CM **welcomed** everyone to the Meeting.
2. There were **apologies** from Ian Hepburn and Neil Munro.
3. The **Minutes** of the Board Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014 were **signed** by CM as a true record of the proceedings.
4. **Matters Arising.** The meeting on Gometra will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> September and CM plans to attend.  
The new Development Manager, Chris Liddell, will start work on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September. AM has purchased some of the necessary computer and office equipment and will set it up later this week.
5. **Three items** were **declared** that do not appear on the **Agenda**: i. Vision Mechanics, ii. IAH retirement dinner, iii. Easyfundraising link.
6. The **Finance Report** had been circulated by AM prior to the Meeting. Although the charity account shows a healthy balance all the money is allocated, but AM is keen to find a way of funding the Woodland Burials ground depth survey so he and CM will continue to look at ways and means.
7. IAH submitted a **Development Report** prior to the Meeting. The Board read through all the points and nothing required further discussion in his absence.
8. **Woodfuel.** Orders remained good last month including bulk poles, chip and garden bark. AM has been studying the new requirements to ensure our customers can claim RHI where appropriate. These include recording the moisture content of firewood as well as chip and may necessitate a training course for AQ and possible Chris Liddell. JA suggested that it would be a good idea to have a contingency plan in place for a replacement chipping contractor in case the one we use is unable to come for some reason. JM has prepared 50 bags of kindling to be offered to local retailers for resale. **Action AM/IAH** to clarify the VAT rules for selling domestic firewood via a third party.
9. **Planning.** JM and IAH showed Ronnie Neil and his assistant the revised potential housing plots as designated by Argyll and Bute Council Planning Officers earlier this year. It is intended that outline permission will be applied for on four plots in the Langamull area and two plots at Kengharair.
10. **New Website.** AM and CM had a meeting with the web designer about the new website and made progress. CM is to write an introduction for the Home Page and AM will supply photos. Once up and running items will be added to the website by employees, reducing delays in keeping information up to date.
11. **Correspondence.** A local contractor contacted CM about the possibility of mounding work. **Action CM** to get back to him and explain that replanting will not take place for around two years.

**12. Any Other Competent Business.** i. Vision Mechanics contacted the Office about an event they are putting on at Calgary Arts in Nature, requesting a contribution on an environmental issue. Due to time constraints it was agreed that it was not possible to put anything together for this. **Action BH to contact.**

ii. After a very busy summer for everyone, it was agreed that the retirement dinner for IAH should be rescheduled as soon as possible. **Action BH** to get some possible dates from IAH and suggest Ballygowan Restaurant as a venue.

iii. CM is keen that the new website contains a link to [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) so that NWMCWC can benefit from commission on purchases made through the portal. The Charity is already registered on the site and can be accessed via a search until the link is up and running.

**13. The next Board Meeting** will be held on Monday **22<sup>nd</sup> September 2014** at 7.30pm in Dervaig Church Hall. The one after is likely to be held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October.

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

**North West Mull Community Woodland Company Limited  
Finance Report to 31st July 2014**

**Current Balance**

Petty : £6.17

Bank : £22,738.00

**Significant movements since last report**

**Debits**

1. PAYE Quarterly payment £872.76

2. Planning on new sites £889.98

3. Forest Feasibility Study £1,800.00

**Credits**

1. Tillhill arrears on monthly payment £9,000.00

**Upcoming Significant Movements**

*(excluding regular cost/credits)*

1. Credit – Forest Feasibility Study grant (HIE) ex VAT £1,500.00

2. Debit - New office IT equipment (chiefly for Chris) £1,148.78

3. Debit – Macphees balance of crofting legals £4,692.00

4. Debit – Crofting Fencing study (to be recovered from Crofters) £1,684.80

**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: £1,117.91

Significant Movements:

Sales credits : £2,144.89

Operational debits : £4,664.01

VAT Reclaim £2,585.83

Charity Management Fees debit: £1,464.00

Andy Mayo

## Development Report August 2014

1. **Timber Haul Road** – Repair work completed. The scraping of Langamull North has been completed by James MacPhail.
2. **Phytophthora Ramorum** – Cleared for the time being but FCS will overfly later this month
3. **Timber Harvesting Langamull** – The tidy up of Langamull North complete. Work is complete in Langamull South. Final measure of available fuel wood is under way.
4. **Timber Harvesting West Ardhu** – harvesting commenced mid July and is progressing well – no further water contamination with silt.
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. New tyres purchased for the 10 cu m trailer. Alan is now moving timber required for chipping up to Crannich quarry and into Crannich yard to minimise the cost of transporting raw timber and processed chip
6. **Forest Crofts** – Crofters meeting scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> 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. **Housing Plots for sale** – surveys have been completed on the sites identified with and by A&BC and a pre consultation enquiry will be submitted this month. Followed by formal planning applications.
9. **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.  
**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. No further progress this month.

IAH 25/08/2014

