

**Minutes of Board Meeting for
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd
Meeting held on Mon 21 September 2015**

Present: Colin Morrison, John Morrison, Andy Mayo, Iain Thomson (via Skype), Neil Munro, Ian Hepburn
Also Present: Malcolm Ward (Development manager), Louise Liddell (Administrator)

1. CM **welcomed** everyone to the meeting, with a particular welcome to the new administrator, Louise Liddell.
2. There were **apologies** from John Addy.
3. A minor clarification was made to **minutes** of the Board Meeting held on **Monday 24 August 2015** ("bank account" now specified as "Trading Company bank account"). They were then **signed** by CM as a true record of the proceedings

4. Matters arising.

- Replacement of the Langamull signage is still in process – wording tbc

5. Items not on the agenda

- BBC Landward
- Ragwort
- Housing strategy meeting
- Brash clearing
- Tilhill/BSW takeover

6. The Finance Report was circulated by AM at the meeting.

- The trading company bank account is now more active as the new administrator is in post and has recommenced invoicing.
- The trading company bank balance is a bit lower than expected due to a VAT overpayment, however this money has been repaid in September
- A payment to Tillhill was made for a PAWS audit and work on our Long Term Forest Design Plan
- A planning fee paid to A&BC may be reclaimed if hydro scheme cannot go ahead as planned.
- Concerns were raised about cash flow and will be further discussed at a dedicated meeting.

7. The Development Manager's Report had been circulated by MW prior to the meeting.

- **Housing:**
 - MW attended a meeting with WHHA and other local parties and reported that there was a lot of focus on letting policies and housing need surveys. CM emphasised that the housing need for NWM has already been established.
 - There have been two recent enquiries about West Ardu plots. IH emphasised that NWMCW can influence views around the plots to make them more appealing to potential buyers.
 - MW will contact West Property to request publicity materials for local advertising
- **Woodfuels:**
 - A quotation has been received from ReHeat for boiler plant - AM to do a cost benefit analysis on this with regards potential RHI payments.
 - There is currently a delay with certification from structural engineers for the woodfuel shed, but the project is set to run smoothly once this is received and the shed should be erected by the end of the year.

- The new vehicle will be ready for use before the shed – timber from Langamull North is to be prepared as cut n split tonne bags for winter orders.
- **Hydro:**
 - MW requested formal assistance with FITs application form which may incur costs
 - MW to send rates for hydro to AM
 - AM requested that a CARES loan claim be made for time spent on the hydro planning process, particularly delays caused by A&BC.
 - CLS is currently gathering information on the impact of new Pre-Accreditation rules, with some optimism that communities bodies may be exempt from changes.
 - No formal objections have so far been made to the hydro plans.
- **Woodland burials:** Groundworks quotation expected on 22/09/2015 – JM to report back
- **Toilets:** Proceedings delayed by AB&C who are looking to sell rather than lease the land.
- **Kildavie:** positive feedback from HARP Archaeology – no major findings as yet but they hope to return annually.
- **DTAS conference:** MW attended on 30th-31st Aug and reported that discussions were dominated by the upcoming removal of the Pre-Accreditation of FITs.

8. Housing: currently awaiting a response regarding heads of terms and site investigation.

9. Transport:

- AQ and MW attended CPC course and are now legally allowed to drive the new vehicle
- MW reported that the vehicle will be eligible for both MOT and tachograph exemption, but that a documented maintenance history will be required in order to comply with the Operator's License. It was therefore decided that the vehicle will not be MOT'd.

10. Correspondence:

- A continued subscription to Confor was approved
- MW to attend future meetings with Deer Management Group as required
- Twelve well-written letters were received from the pupils of Dervaig Primary School, requesting that the brash be cleared from the forest school. AM and MW to respond to these letters and pass the request on to harvesters.

11. Any other competent business:

- **Landward:** MW in communication with BBC about possible filming in the next two weeks. Feature will emphasise the benefit of community land ownership to the local community and families.
- **Ragwort:** information received to say that ragwort does not pose an immediate threat to sheep.
- **Housing Strategy meeting:** CM will attend on 23/09 and intends to emphasise rural needs and the need for ultra-local focus.
- **Brash clearing:** Harvesting and forwarding has now been completed but some concerns have been raised about the mess left behind. MW to investigate concerns about brash blocking neighbouring water supplies.
- **Tilhill/BSW takeover:** Tilhill forestry has now been taken over by BSW, with assurances from Tilhill that there will be no noticeable change. However, some concerns were raised that BSW have no motive to negotiate best price on behalf of NWMCWC, and it was agreed that future contracts should be negotiated with care to protect against price suppression.

12. Date of next meetings: 26th October 2015
30th November 2015 (provisional)

Development Report September 2015

1. **Timber Harvesting** – Timber harvesting across the whole estate has completed. Some final areas of forwarding close to the eagles hide were last to be cleared. MW dealing with Tilhill regarding some water supply issues with a neighbour. Tilhill have recently been purchased by BSW Timber Group. Awaiting draft of LTFDP review – Tilhill advise they've been making some amendments following consultations with FCS.
2. **Housing** – MW attended a meeting with WHHA and other parties from projects on island. Main topics of discussion were letting policy and housing need. No movement as yet on WA plot sales.
3. **Island Woodfuels – Woodshed**: Quotation received for boiler plant. Delay at the moment as plans are with Structural engineers for certification prior to forwarding to fabricators.
Visit: SWMID visited on Wednesday 2 September for a presentation and tour of the woodland. Thanks to CM and IT for their assistance and advice.
Vehicle: AQ and MW recently completed Driver CPC training and are now legally allowed to drive our vehicle. Awaiting return of the Operator's Licence prior to beginning deliveries.
4. **Forest Crofts** – Review meeting set for 2 November. Management plans expected to arrive with MW mid-October.
5. **Micro Generation – Hydro West Ardhu** – MW still working through the FITs application form. Planning being rushed along by all parties and we're hopeful of completion before the end of the month.
6. **Woodland Burials** – Still awaiting a quotation for groundworks. MW to follow up.
7. **Toilets** – Third Sector Transfer meeting was held Thursday 10 September but A&BC have suspended the original application as it varied too much from the asset transfer terms (cost). It's being forwarded to the holding dept for discussion and we'll hear again shortly.
8. **Kildavie** – HARP Archaeology completed a 2 week fieldwork project at Kildavie with much coverage on social media from all parties.
9. **DTAS** – MW attended the DTA Scotland conference in Inverness on 30/31 August. It was very useful and the topic of the moment was very definitely the issues we're all having with upcoming removal of Pre-Accreditation of FITs.

MW 24/07/2015

North West Mull Community Woodland Company Limited

Finance Report to 31st August 2015

Current Balance

Petty : £45.45

Bank : Clydesdale: £61,759.29 Triodos: £20,049.35 Total: £81,854.09

Significant movements since last report

Debits

1. NFU Mutual – Truck insurance	£701.39
2. CPC training for truck	£700.00
3. Additional planning fee to A&BC	£401.00
4. Tillhill	£3,102.00

Credits

Upcoming Significant Movements

(excluding regular cost/credits)

1. Credit – VAT repayment	£5,094.96
2. Debit - CPC training for truck	£700.00
3. Debit – SSE Hydro connection feed	£1,038.73

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: £8,912.67

Significant Movements:

Sales credits :	£2,284.25
Operational debits :	£3352.11
Charity Management Fees debit:	£3,264.00

Andy Mayo