

**Minutes of Board Meeting for  
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Limited  
Meeting held at Dervaig Church Hall on  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012**

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

**Also Present:** Ian Hepburn (Development Manager) and Belinda Hale (Administrator and Company Secretary).

1. CM **welcomed** everyone to the Meeting.
2. There were no **apologies**.
3. The **Minutes** of the Board Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012 were **signed** by CM as a true record of the proceedings.
4. **Matters Arising.** All three crofters have now paid their ingo and first year's rent. The meeting with Claire Hannah from HIE is likely to take place on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 5.30pm subject to confirmation.

During the Rally someone removed pins securing the hinge of the West Ardhū west block haul road gate and unlocked the padlock using a Forestry Commission key. As some people seem determined to use the road it was agreed that once harvesting in Langamull is complete the gates will be secured using our own padlocks. Our solicitor has clarified the position about Hugh Balfour Paul's servitude and he is not able to deny access to legitimate vehicles without a court order. As NWMCWC Ltd can show due diligence in trying to prevent access by unauthorised vehicles it is extremely unlikely that such an order would be granted.

There is a meeting with Councillor Devon on 5<sup>th</sup> November re the Dervaig Toilets.

JA hopes to map the waterfall path in West Ardhū on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October with those interested meeting at 9.30am at the car park.

5. **Declaration of items not on the Agenda.** MICT Broadband survey.
6. JM had previously circulated his **Finance Report**. There has already been some income from venison sales with more to follow.
7. IAH had previously circulated his **Development Manager's Report**.
8. **Secure Compound.** JM has slightly modified the plans for the secure building to make access easier. He has already received one quote for the roofing materials and two more are expected soon. Based on the one already received the funds offered should cover all the material costs if we use our own timber. JM will produce a cutting plan shortly but there is a lot of work to be done so completion of the building is not expected before spring 2013.
9. **Fundraising.** Several fundraising ideas were suggested including a sponsored walk of the haul road and a calendar based on a photo competition **Action JA** to pursue this idea. It was also agreed that the Directors will try to recruit more people into the 100 Club. **Action BH** to circulate the application forms. It was decided that a Bingo Night will be held in Dervaig Village Hall on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm. **Action AMay** to check Hall availability and inform BH. It may be necessary to purchase some new books for the Bingo.

**10. Deer Management.** CM attended the Deer Management Group meeting and noted that apart from ourselves and FCS all the members are farmers and estate managers. It was agreed that a Board member should attend as many future meetings as possible pending the need for our own Deer Management Policy. A meeting with John Little concerning deer management and re-fencing is being arranged for 29<sup>th</sup> November. IAH, JM, JA will definitely attend and CM will try to.

**11. Dervaig Toilets.** Following the publication of the tourism facilities report by MICT a meeting has been held with them to discuss a better way forward than that suggested in the report. As minuted in item 4. CM is meeting Councillor Devon to discuss toilet provision in Dervaig.

**12. Business Plan.** CM and JA are aware that they still need to update the Business plan now that the 5 Year Review is complete. Once the meeting with Claire Hannah is over they will get together with a view to completing the update by early 2013.

**13. Correspondence.** A Member has suggested that the members of sub committees for specific projects should be published on our website. This information is detailed in the Minutes of May 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. The Member also requested publication of the private email addresses of the Directors. It was agreed that as all the Directors can be contacted by phone, in person or via the admin email address this would be unnecessary.

**14. Any other competent business.** MICT have requested that a further survey about improving broadband on Mull be circulated to our members. The Board agreed that this was a good idea. **Action BH** to circulate.

The Community Council have again been approached about having a representative on our Board. They are likely to nominate Mike Shilson but this is to be confirmed.

JM suggested that everyone should put their minds to suggesting suitable people to be nominated as Directors at the 2013 AGM.

**15. The next Board Meeting** will be held on Monday **19<sup>th</sup> November 2012** at 7.30pm in Dervaig Church Hall. The provisional date for the one after is Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

BH was congratulated for completing her Jordan Trek and raising c£4000.00 for Help for Heroes. JA was congratulated on his recent marriage.

The Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

1. **Timber Haul Road** – the road is holding up well, some minor repairs are being undertaken including repacking around some cattle grids
2. **Fishish Fixed Pier**
  - a. Set back with this as FES are now not predicting completion until July 2013.
3. **Timber Harvesting**
4. Harvesting is now continuing in Langamull with the breakout and production rate significantly better than the prediction used for the initial budgeting on the project
5. **Timber Haulage and Floating Pier**
  - a. The timber haulage continues with up to 4 vehicles running to meet the shipment programme, we have another pulp boat due in at Corpach and the push is on to fulfil the requirement.
6. **Forest Crofts** - Payments have now been received from all three crofters
7. **Access Feasibility Study – As in September** the final report has been received and is available in the office, **we now need to start work to prioritise the possible projects.**
8. **HIE/FCS 5 year Review** –Claire Hannah wishes to meet to discuss how we can work with HIE to progress the Micro Hydro and the Woodland Burials, a meeting date of the 20<sup>th</sup> of November @ 19.30 has been offered and I await Claire's response.
9. **Housing - Sale of Proposed Building Plots - Use of Sitka - No change**
10. **Medium Term Income**
  - a. Woodland Burials – The preferred area is within compartment 915 of the Langamull North woodlands, the final clearance of and management of the retention in 915 is now well underway in consultation with Dave Sexton (to ensure that we accommodate the white tails as far as is practical) . Once cleared we can start on site selection.
  - b. Leasing Birch Woodlands – Not progressed this month.
11. **Micro Generation – Hydro West Ardhu**
  - a. CARES Loan scheme – Formal letter of offer received and our acceptance confirmed
  - b. The connection application lodged with SSE has been accepted and we should have a connection offer by the middle of October.
12. **UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS)** – the annual audit is scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> November and between now and then I'll be working through the assessment document to ensure that we are fully compliant.

IAH 18/10/12

## **Finance Report to 19th October 2012**

### **General**

Petty cash stands at £9.67.

Cash available is £18,736.61. This balance is after payment of salaries and all other invoices due this week.

Significant movements during the past period were

- 1) Payment of £300 for office rent for the period October - December 2012.
- 2) Payment of £1,419.66 to HMRC for NI & Tax.
- 3) Payment of £202.97 for office computer software.
- 4) A credit of £4,778.54 from HIE for their contribution to the 5 Year Review costs.
- 5) Credits of £2,231.40 for crofters ingoing fees and first year rents.

### **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**

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. Specific costs are noted below;

Mini Hydro - Planning and connection fees - approx £1,500

- Access works at West Ardhu - second quote awaited.

Venison sales - a credit of £375.75 will be in the Account at the end of the month.

There should be a small receipt in due time re chip and firewood proceeds of sale of the roadline timber but that will be not be significant.

There should also be further receipts from venison sales.

### **Short Term Future Financial Position**

Cash remains secure for the next several months.

### **Trading Company Balance**

Balance stands at approximately £200.

### **J.N.Morrison - Treasurer**