

**Minutes of Board Meeting for
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd
Meeting held at Dervaig Church Hall on
Monday 19th November 2012**

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

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

1. CM **welcomed** everyone to the Meeting and introduced Mike Shilson (MS) who is to take a place on the Board as the Community Council nominated representative.

2. There were no **apologies**.

3. The **Minutes** of the Board Meeting held on 22nd October 2012 were **signed** by CM as a true record of the proceedings.

4. There were no **matters arising** that are not covered by Agenda items.

5. Several **items** were **declared** that are **not on the Agenda**. i. Sub Committees, ii. CLS Seminar, iii. Adoption of the NW Mull Archaeological Group as a Sub Committee, iv. School Projects, v. Director Recruitment, vi. Glen Road gritting.

6. The **Finance Report** had previously been circulated by JM. There were no matters requiring extra discussion.

7. The **Development Manager's Report** had previously been circulated by IAH. He offered to spend some time with MS running through the background of the current projects to help him settle in as a Director. IAH and Gavin Brown from UPM Tilhill met with the FES Operations Director, Les Bryson, concerning the fixed pier at Fishnish. Les is determined that we will be included in the planning and implementation of the pier's use and that we must be satisfied with the prices to be charged.

SSE has agreed to connection availability for the Micro Hydro plant in 2014. BH and JA recently had a recce to the waterfall to see how much of the walking path can be combined with either the pipeline or the quad bike maintenance track. There is a lot of amenity value in keeping the walking path close to the burn. **Action JA** to provide a sketch plan and map of the preferred route.

There will be a meeting tomorrow about remaking the old path to Kildavie so that there is access to the site until the new path from the hammerhead can be made. Bill Patterson, Kevin Luscombe, Frank Dewhurst and Ailsa Morgan have been invited to attend.

8. **Secure Compound.** JM has received two quotes for the roofing materials. If all our own timber is used for the rest of the structure the total cost should be well within the funding offered. The donor is being kept informed of progress. It is necessary to ensure that the design of the structure is safe so IAH will contact Napier University for their opinion. **Action IAH.** As the compound will be a good advertisement for the use of sitka in building, it is hoped that Napier may be prepared to give advice at a low cost. JM has completed the cutting plan and hopes to commence work in the New Year.

9. **Fundraising.** An ad has been placed in Round and About for the Bingo Night on 7th December. Posters were distributed to Directors for placement locally and some new bingo books have been ordered. **Action BH** to circulate poster to Newsletter emailing list and request donations of baking for the refreshments. Unclaimed prizes from the Forest Fun Day raffle will be used but many more are needed. It was agreed that entry to the event will be free with people paying for the books. A donations box will be put out near the refreshments.

10. **Forest Croft Entry.** All the remaining crofters were contacted asking if they would like to start the registration process now or wait until their allocated area has been clear felled. Three have opted for early entry **Action IAH** to start process. One crofter prefers to wait and two have yet to reply.

11. **Dervaig Toilets.** A meeting has taken place with Mary Jean Devon who will support an application for a lease of the land from Argyll and Bute Council to provide new facilities and a children's play area. MICT are also supportive of the plan and may be able to help with accessing funding. Hugh Boa has expressed dissatisfaction with the fact that people are still using the viewpoint as a toilet and has suggested he may close the car park if this continues. Action JM to feedback to Mr Boa about the plans we have. It was noted that not much may happen before early 2013 due to Ms Devon's other commitments.

12. Website Upgrade. In ten months time our agreement for website management will run out and it was agreed that the whole website needs remaking. At the same time it would make sense to look at who will host the server. Ideally the new, larger and quicker website would be administered by BH so that items can be put on and taken off more quickly. MS suggested that once we have more server space each Director could have a NWMCWC email account. **Action CM** to talk to Web Manager.

13. The **date** of the next **AGM** was set as Wednesday 13th March 2013 at 7.30pm in Dervaig Village Hall. There will be a question and answer session after the AGM. **Action BH** to check hall availability.

14. Correspondence. i. Community Woodlands Association are running some Trainer Training in Oban at the beginning of December. It was agreed that the details would be forwarded to Calum Duffy as he has previously expressed an interest in this. **Action BH** to send to Calum. ii. Napier have sent a brief survey **Action IAH** to complete. Other correspondence received did not require any action.

15. Any Other Competent Business. i. **Sub Committees.** CM refreshed the Director's memories about who is tagged to which project so they can be involved with any relevant meetings and correspondence:

Micro Hydro	AMay, JM, IAH
Paths and Access	JA, Ailsa Morgan, IAH
Forest Management	JA, CM, IAH
Woodland Burials	JM, AM, IAH
Deer Management	JMac, IAH
Woodmizer	AMay, IAH

A Board Meeting solely to discuss Housing was arranged for 14th January 2013.

ii. Community Land Scotland have a Seminar in Oban on 7th December. IAH will be speaking and CM is to attend.

iii. The North Mull Archaeological Group need to be annexed to the Company as Kildavie is on our land and this will make funding applications much easier. It was unanimously agreed that the Group be adopted as a Sub Committee and that they be asked to provide Minutes of all their meetings.

iv. **School Projects.** A work party is being organised on 25th November to clear the area where Dervaig School will be planting their fruit trees. IT will give an estimate for fencing. The Parents Association have also requested the use of a piece of land adjacent to the School for some raised beds and better parking. This needs to be formalised by a simple licence so that ownership cannot be disputed in the future **Action IAH**. It was agreed that no trees may be cut down on the land involved. **Action CM** to inform the Parents Association and request a scale drawing for proper reference.

v. Neil Munro has expressed a keen interest in becoming a Director. It was unanimously agreed that he could be offered co-option onto the Board with immediate effect with a view to standing for election at the 2013 AGM. **Action CM** to contact Neil.

vi. **Glen Road.** A&B have again stated that they will not be gritting the Glen Road this winter. This affects school children requiring the school bus, key workers, people requiring the emergency services and our timber transport. It was agreed that a letter from the Company should be sent to the Council expressing our concerns and that it should be copied to local councillors, MSP's and the Oban Times. **Action CM and IAH** to draft and send letter.

16. The **next Board Meeting** will be held on Monday **17th December 2012**. The next general Board Meeting after that will be held on Monday 28th January 2013. As noted above a single topic Board Meeting will be held on Monday 14th January 2013 to discuss Housing.

The Meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Development Managers Report November 2012

1. **Timber Haul Road** – the road is holding up well, some minor repairs are being undertaken including repacking around some cattle grids
2. **Fishnish Fixed Pier**
 - a. Set back with this as Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES) locally are now not predicting completion until July 2013.(significantly Les Bryson FES Operations Director is talking about late spring)
 - b. Gavin Brown and I attended a meeting with Les Bryson in Inverness last week to discuss the lack of action by and the attitude of David Jardine FES's new District Forest Manager. A very frank discussion highlighted Les's determination to ensure that we use the pier and take a full part in the planning and implementation of the pier's use. A user group will be set up as we suggested to DJ back in August and Les was adamant that we should be satisfied with the prices to be charged.
3. **Timber Harvesting** - 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
4. **Timber Haulage and Floating Pier**
5. The timber haulage continues with up to 4 vehicles running to meet the shipment programme.
6. **Forest Crofts** - Payments have now been received from all three crofters and an invitation to commence registration has been sent to the remaining 6.
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** –Meeting date with Claire Hannah fixed as the 21st of November at 19.30 @ Creagan
9. **Housing - Sale of Proposed Building Plots - Use of Sitka - No change**
10. **Medium Term Income**
 - a. Woodland Burials – The final clearance of and management of the retention in 915 is now virtually complete. Expect to walk the proposed site in the next week or two.
 - 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 offer has been received :-
 - i. Full Connection £23,163.13 Payable on acceptance of the offer
 - ii. None contestable only £3,617.00 Payable on acceptance of the offer
 - iii. Connection available May 2014
12. **UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS)** – the annual audit is scheduled for 28th November and between now and then I'll be working through the assessment document to ensure that we are fully compliant.

North West Mull Community Woodland Company Limited

Finance Report to 16th November 2012

General

Petty cash stands at £6.17.

Cash available is £17,480.29. This balance is after payment of salaries and all other invoices due this week.

A quiet month with only one significant movement during the past period, this being

1) A credit of £375.75 from Highland game for venison sales.

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.

The phone bill is due for payment late November, total £106.14.

Insurance renewals are due early December. Our current insurers, NFU Mutual have submitted their proposal and DTAS have been asked to quote to ensure that we are getting value for money.

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 could 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 £570.

J.N.Morrison - Treasurer