

**Minutes of Board Meeting for
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd
Meeting held on Monday 24th November 2014**

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

Also Present: Belinda Hale (Administrator and Company Secretary)

1. CM **welcomed** everyone to the Meeting.
2. There were **apologies** from John Addy and Chris Liddell (Development Manager).
3. The **Minutes** of the Board Meeting held on Monday 27th October 2014 were **signed** by CM as a true record of the proceedings.
4. **Matters Arising. Branching Out.** The project has been adopted by the Argyll and Isles Trust so any participation we have will be cost free, including any legal and insurance costs. It was agreed that interest in the project be maintained with a view to providing space in the woodlands. There is an option to have people trained if we want to. **Rural Parliament.** The visit to Mull was well received by the delegates and we have had good feedback from the two groups (totalling nearly 50 people) who came to NWMCWC Ltd and saw IAH's presentation. **DTAS Visit.** The visit today by Wendy Reid and Aileen Tulloch was very useful and highlighted that there may be more flexibility in the way the funding headings are used than first thought.
5. **Four items** were **declared** that were not on the **Agenda**: i. Woodmizer, ii. Christmas Trees, iii. Kildavie Bridge, iv. March Fence.
6. The **Finance Report** had been circulated by AM prior to the Meeting. Overall the bank balances and cash flow are good. Tilhill are behind with their monthly payments **Action IAH** to chase. The Trading Company is making a profit and is on target for a plus balance after a year trading as Island Woodfuels.
7. The **Development Report** had been circulated by IAH prior to the Meeting. The final outputs from Langamull were almost exactly as predicted with a good percentage of saw logs and pulp wood. Outputs from West Ardu are also good and prices are holding up well. Tilhill asked our existing harvesters if they would carry out some hand felling in Langamull at our cost. As they are unwilling to do this we will have to bring a contractor on to the Island to carry out the work.

One of the Crofters wishes to put a house on his Forest Croft but has only supplied minimal details. **Action IAH/CL** to ask for more information so a decision can be made. Argyll and Bute Council are still unclear about how they wish the Micro Hydro plans to be presented but it is hoped that the planning application will go in before Christmas. **Action IAH** to provide a neighbouring landowner with updated plans. IAH has met with Ronnie Neil about the master plan for the housing project.
8. **Woodfuel.** This continues to progress well and contracts are being negotiated with larger customers. IAH/AM have researched various vehicles to help streamline deliveries and suggest that a tipping transit type vehicle would be most useful and cost effective at the moment, although a larger lorry will be needed in the longer term. It was unanimously agreed that IAH/AM should proceed with the sourcing and purchase of a suitable vehicle which will be paid for by the Charity and leased to the Trading Co. JM will contact AQ to arrange use of the tractor to prepare more bags of kindling.

9. Housing. This was covered in item 7.

10. Woodland Burials. Revised quotes have been received for the soil depth survey and a contractor agreed on. JM has marked out the approximate area and will do further work on this. **Action JM/CL** to progress to a full survey, also to contact James MacPhail for a quote for an access road and de-stumping of the designated area.

11. Name of Company. It has been suggested that as the business diversifies it might be appropriate to drop 'Woodland' from the Company name, or change the name completely. Agreement would be required at an EGM with 75% of attendees voting in favour. This could be held after the AGM. It was agreed that all Directors would give the matter careful consideration and bring ideas and suggestions to the next Board Meeting. **Action BH** to put on Agenda.

12. Paths for All. CL has been working with Paths for All with a view to bringing a training course to Mull, but there were no details in his absence. **Action CL** to email Directors with information and request consent to progress.

13. Correspondence. A letter has been received from a local resident concerning the condition of the Kildavie Bridge. Repairs are being arranged see item 14.

14. Any Other Competent Business. i. AM reported that the **Woodmizer** needs some maintenance including new bearings and adjustment to the tensioner. It was agreed that the mechanic who serviced the Woodmizer last year be asked to come and carry out the work. **Action AM** to organise. It was suggested that the other owners be requested to start contributing to repairs and maintenance as per the original agreement.

ii. **Christmas Trees** will not be sold this year but we will continue to donate one each to Dervaig Primary School, Ulvaferry Primary School and Dervaig Village Hall. **Action CM/AM** to cut and deliver, early December for the Schools and c18th December for the Village Hall.

iii. **Kildavie Bridge.** AM will use the Woodmizer to prepare timber lengths as required for the bridge repairs. JM is donating chicken wire and staples etc. **Action CM** to draw up cutting list, coordinate repairs and organise work party.

iv. One of our neighbours is still unhappy that the temporary repair to the fence line does not follow the original boundary despite assurances that the permanent fence will do so. IT has been asked to give a quote based on deer stobs and stock fencing to rectify the length of fence that diverts from the original line. **Action IAH** to check if the neighbour is required to share maintenance costs on that stretch of fence.

15. The next Board Meeting will be held on **Monday 5th January 2015** at 7.30pm in Dervaig Church Hall. The one after is likely to held on Monday 2nd February 2015.

The Meeting closed at 9.05pm.

North West Mull Community Woodland Company Limited

Finance Report to 31st October 2014

Current Balance

Petty : £45.45

Bank: Clydesdale: £18,983.59 Triodos: £11,175.35 Total: £30,158.94

Significant movements since last report

Debits

1. Planning fees for six housing plots £5,278.94
2. Payment for lost grazing land £504.15
3. PAYE Quarterly payment £1,014.60
4. Tillhill management charge £900.00

Credits

1. Crofting fencing study repayment £435.00
2. Back payments of Mgmt fee from Trade Co £3,600.00

Upcoming Significant Movements (*excluding regular cost/credits*)

1. Debit – New website and domain renewals £258.96
2. Debit – Rural housing conference feed £367.00

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: £2,007.64

Significant Movements:

Sales credits: £9,386.42

Operational debits: £3,066.83

Charity Management Fees debit: £6,864.00

Andy Mayo

Development Report November 2014

1. **Timber Haul Road** – All major movements of timber across from Langamull have now been completed future movements will be restricted to fuelwood. No further repair work will be carried out to the Road until we complete the movement of fuel wood and the repair will be tied in with the ongoing activity in West Ardhu.
2. **Timber Harvesting Langamull** –The final measure of available fuel wood in Langamull South is complete the out turn overall for Langamull is as follows
37,404 tonnes (50.2%) were logs,
31,786 tonnes (42.7%) were pulp, and
5,295 tonnes (7.1%) were fuel/chip.
74,485 tonnes in total
The above is basically in line with initial predictions
3. **Timber Harvesting West Ardhu** – harvesting commenced mid-July and is progressing well Output to date is 7624 tonnes, 76% log, 18% pulp and 6% fuel/chip. Log percentage will, obviously, drop as we process roadside stocks which are predominantly pulp and chip.
4. **Island Woodfuels**– New operation continues to go well, Andy Mayo's report will cover financials. Future delivery strategy for solid wood fuel is still to resolve including woodchip bulk bags. Some customers have moved to regular standing order payments at their request.
5. **Forest Crofts** –Crofters meeting scheduled for 11th March resulted in a request that we try to arrange some Technical input to facilitate the Crofters Forest Design Plans. John Little has been contacted to obtain costs for advice following which we will contact the crofters to check if they wish to proceed.
One of the Crofters has indicated that he wishes to erect a house on his croft and we have advised that he needs to set out a clear specification and valuation for the house and advise us whether he wishes to de-croft or build as an improvement.
6. **Micro Generation – Hydro West Ardhu** -
A&BC planners now want separate applications for the new public road access and the micro hydro site, contradicting what they said last year. They also want to include more land in the application to allow for deviations to the pipelines. Bruce and Neill are in discussions with A&BC as to the exact format of the application as there appears to be two or more views in A&BC. IAH has advised Bruce and Neill that as the pipeline route has been walked significant diversions are unlikely.
7. **Housing Plots for sale** – Planning applications for the 2 West Ardhu plots and pre-application approval for the 4 Langamull lots have been paid and submitted.
8. **Woodland Burials**
Revised quotations for survey have been received and the basic site marked out, it is hoped that the survey can be commissioned within the next few days.
9. **Kildavie** – Photos and dig report received from Ian Hill.
10. **Rural Housing Scotland - Our Island Home** –
IAH met with Ronnie Neil to agree a brief for an initial Master plan and to confirm with Bruce and Neil that they would be prepared to work as part of a joint project with ARC design who created the winning OIH design. RN will provide a brief and a quote for the same within the next 2 weeks.