

North West Mull Community Woodland Company Limited
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Held on Wednesday 13th March 2013 in Dervaig Village Hall

1. Colin Morrison chaired the Meeting and **welcomed** all those attending. He informed the Meeting that after the AGM Dave Sexton (RSPB) would be giving a short briefing about the white tailed eagles in Langamull and that there would also be an opportunity for questions from the community.

Present: Members: Belinda Hale, Mike Hale, John Morrison, Colin Morrison, Joan Hepburn, Ian Hepburn, Frances Proud, Tony Proud, Jan Morrison, Ailsa Morgan, Frank Dewhurst, John Addy, Mary Barton, Basil Barton, Dave Bankes, Andy Mayo, Cath Mayo, Ann Eastwood, Martin Eastwood, Alistair Morrison, Pat Morrison, Angus MacKenzie, Graham Dale, Alasdair Slowik, Catherine Evans, Chris Baker, Matthew Reade, Iain Morrison, Ann Evans, Gregor Munro, Neil Munro, Catriona Laurie, Alan Quinn, James MacPhail and Andrew Stevens (35).

Associate and Non Members: Ian Smith, Linda Patterson, Moira Owers, Cheryl Callow, Doreen Owers, Alasdair Satchel, Richard Marsh, Steve Maker, Lorna Boa, Hugh Boa, Sally Marsh, Jamie Laurie, Michael Shilson (13).

2. There were **apologies** from Iain Thomson, John Austin, Jo Austin, Nick Turnbull, Ian Lowe, Avril Lowe, Michelle Cowe, Mary Jean Devon and Tracy Mayo. Nick Turnbull had sent a message of support for the achievements and long term objectives of the Company which was read out at his request.

3. The **Minutes** of the previous AGM of 1st March 2012 were shown to the attendees and **signed** by Colin Morrison as a true record of the proceedings. Proposer: Tony Proud, seconded: Alistair Morrison.

4. Colin Morrison gave his **Chairman's Report** covering many aspects of the year's activities including: harvesting and transport, access and amenity, forest crofts, micro hydro, woodland burials and the forest school. He also gave feedback about the 5 Year Review, UKWAS accreditation, deer control, archaeology at Kildavie and white tailed eagles in Langamull. Fundraising and community events have included a Forest Fun day, a Harvesting Demonstration, providing teas at the Producers Market and a Bingo Night. A first aid training course was delivered in June 2012. NWMCWC Ltd hosted the AGM and Conference for Community Land Scotland and are also members of Community Woodlands Association, Development Trusts Association Scotland, ConFor and Reforesting Scotland. Ian Hepburn has been invited to make several presentations to other organisations this year as NWMCWC Ltd have led the way in many aspects of community woodland development. Colin thanked three Directors who were stepping down at the AGM. He also thanked Ailsa Morgan who stepped down earlier in the year.

5. Ian Hepburn is the **Development Manager** and he gave an illustrated **report** about the year's events. He went into more detail about several of the projects touched on by the Chairman.

6. **Election of Directors.** As required by the Articles of Association one third of the Directors (3) stood down. They were Alex Duncan, Catriona Laurie and James MacPhail. One nomination had been received for recently co-opted Director Neil Munro who was proposed by Colin Morrison and seconded by Belinda Hale. As there were no other nominations Neil Munro was duly elected to the Board.

7. John Morrison gave a **Treasurer's Report** and presented the Annual Accounts for 2011-2012. Clements have been reappointed as Accountants and Auditors for the Company. John has been Treasurer since the idea of a community purchase of the woodlands first came about and he announced that he will be standing down at the next Board Meeting and continue as a Director. Martin Eastwood proposed a vote of thanks for all John's dedicated work over the years and Colin added the Board's thanks.

8. There being no **other business** the Chairman declared the AGM **closed** at 8.20pm.

Minutes were taken by Belinda Hale.

Community Consultation

After the AGM Dave Sexton (RSPB Officer for Mull) explained that a young pair of white tailed eagles had been seen building a nest in Langamull near Kildavie. NWMCWC Ltd are working with Dave to plan the management of the woodlands to accommodate both the nesting eagles and continuation of harvesting. In the short term archaeological work at Kildavie will have to stop but Dave is happy to work to arrange access at times outwith Easter to July if the nest succeeds. He will also try to help about timing for bracken control. There is no conflict with the plans to survey and establish a woodland burial site. Dave explained that there is no official exclusion distance but that disturbing nesting eagles is a criminal offence so people must err on the side of caution. There will be an informal monitoring of the nest by Eagle Watch and there is the possibility for a guided public viewing area if the nest succeeds. Dave was thanked for taking the time to come and explain the situation to the community.

Mike Hale asked if it was possible to have a saw mill on Mull instead of taking all the harvested timber off the Island. Ian Hepburn explained that there is not enough timber harvested each year to make a saw mill economic.

Richard Marsh asked about access rights on the haul road and it was explained that under the Scottish Right to Road Act anyone can walk, ride or cycle down the road but no vehicles may be used. The road crosses land owned by other people and the servitudes we have only give the right for forestry related traffic.

Ann Evans asked about the plans for footpaths. John Addy explained that it is hoped to combine the access for the Micro Hydro project with a circular waterfall walk and that the route has already had preliminary surveys. Although it is hoped that eventually the plans in the Access and Amenity Study will be put into action it is very expensive to create and maintain all ability paths. Walkable paths are much cheaper and work has already been done to improve the Minister's Path. The path to Kildavie was scheduled for some renovation but the work is on hold because of the white tailed eagles.

Tony proud proposed a vote of thanks to the Board and employees of NWMCWC Ltd and there was general applause.