

North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Held Thursday 28th January 2010 at 7.30 pm in Dervaig Village Hall

1. Colin Morrison chaired the meeting and welcomed all those attending.

Present: Members, Dave Bankes, Barbara Barton, Steve Davies, Catriona Duncan, Alec Duncan, Ann Evans, Belinda Hale, Lesley Hastie, Ian Hepburn, Joan Hepburn, Ian Lowe, Jamie Laurie, Cath Mayo, Colin Morrison, Iain Morrison, Jan Morrison, John Morrison, Pat Morrison, Neil Munro, Gregor Munro, Bill Patterson, Suzanne Patterson, Pete Pinnington, Frances Proud, Tony Proud, Matthew Reade, Nick Turnbull, Caroline Wood (28).

Associate and non members, L. Boa, Adam Dawson, Frank Dewhurst, Ian Smith, Ailsa Morgan, Fiona Quarmby, David Thomas (7).

2. **Apologies:** Michelle Cowe.

3. **The Minutes** of the previous AGM held on 6th March 2009 were read out and it was unanimously agreed that they should be signed as a true record of the proceedings.

4. **Chairman's Report, Review 2009**

Ian is going to give a presentation of where we are at with our various different projects, so I will only give a brief review of the year since the last AGM.

Looking through minutes of the last year it strikes me once again just how much has been happening. I realise that the behind the scenes work of the board is not always readily obvious, but nonetheless it happens and I pay tribute to the board and staff for their ongoing commitment.

Sadly this year Michelle Cowe, our Administrator left for pastures new. Michelle had been involved from early on and her contribution is missed. Fortunately however Belinda Hale has taken over this role and has stepped ably into Michelle's shoes.

There have also been some comings and goings amongst the directors. Ann Evans, Alistair Taylor and Andy Mortley felt it necessary to resign from the board over the issue of the Langamull Wind Turbine Proposal. All have agreed to continue their support however, and at this stage Ann Evans remains as our Company Secretary, Andy Mortley continues to be involved with our ongoing Hide Project and Ali remains involved with work parties. Matthew Reade is stepping down from the board to concentrate on the changes happening at Calgary but will continue to be involved with the cycle path project and the woodmizer. The board will miss his lively enthusiasm and practical knowledge.

We recently co-opted Pete Pinnington and Ailsa Morgan onto the board. Pete and Adam Dawson are investigating value added products for us and Ailsa is involved in looking at the possibility of creating cycle paths and a cycle training area.

Tony Proud remains as the Community Council nominated director.

The Langamull Wind Turbine proposal was of course turned down by the community and the board continue investigating other alternative income streams that will insulate our wider projects from the vagaries of the timber market. Ian will talk more about this.

Fundraising over the year has included amongst other things discos, race nights and teas and stalls at the producers markets.

The woodmizer is available for hire with operator and has brought us in some income this year. We certainly hope to expand this, so please make contact if the woodmizer can be of use to you.

The recycling bins were moved from opposite the school to their new site on NWMCWC ground at Dunan Neill.

John continues the thankless task of maintaining the village toilets in working order.

Once again this year the woodland company organised and ran the village bonfire night.

Our Forest Design Plan was finally approved, and for those who have not yet seen it there are copies around (hard copy available in the office and 2 CDs to borrow).

We have updated our business plan to take account of changing circumstances, priorities and timescales. Again there is a copy in the office and we will be putting it on our website.

The Forest Schools shelter in West Ardhu was completed by volunteer labour using our own timber milled using the woodmizer. The Forest school is ongoing and the kids seem to love their time in the woods. Another 100 trees were planted for "Tree O Clock" near the Forest Schools area and this will become a really attractive amenity area over the years.

Volunteer work parties have been ongoing including work on cutting and splitting firewood and road repairs.

I am particularly excited that we are moving forward with a Woodland Crofts project and again Ian will explain a bit more about this, but I think this project has huge potential for real community benefit both at the individual level and in diversifying areas of the woodlands into much more varied and interesting places.

Much of Ian's time throughout the year has been dedicated to the road project. While the timing of the work in the Glen was inconvenient (not up to us and we did try to persuade them to postpone it to a quieter time) we are all benefiting already from the improved stretch of the C46 at Crannich.

We were unsuccessful in our application for Rural Homes for Rent Funding for our housing project. We continue to look for other means to make this happen.

We are working in partnership with Comhlann Croag on the archaeological sites at both Kildavie and the West Ardhu Dun. There may be an Archaeological dig at Kildavie in the near future. For further info on this or to become involved please contact Bill Patterson or Kevin Luscombe.

Directors and Staff have attended a number of courses and events throughout the year. Adam Dawson attended a back breaking course in Knoydart to learn how to create buildings from logs and Ian, John and Adam have attended Deer management courses. Adam and I attended the Community Woodlands Association Annual Conference.

We are very aware of our responsibilities as a community company and of course Anyone can contact any director, Ian or Belinda at any time with queries or suggestions. So that we can deal with any concerns or suggestions you may have for the future we have left out post it notes and stuck collection sheets around the walls so you can let us know what you think. Please tell us your concerns now, or by posting suggestions and comments on the big bits of paper around the Hall. Also, over the next couple of months we intend to carry out a consultation exercise including a drop in open day so that people can let us know what they think and how they wish to see the

company develop. Please remember it is your company and your thoughts, opinions and ideas are crucial to its ongoing development. There were no questions from the floor.

5. Project Manager's Report. Ian Hepburn gave an illustrated report which is to be posted in full on the Company website. It covered items including the Forest Design Plan, the Timber Haul Route, Affordable Housing, Forest Crofts, wood fuel supply, the Forest Schools Initiative, access to the woodlands, the Hide Project, Historical Sites and Micro Hydro-generation. There were no questions from the floor.

6. Election of Directors. Matthew Reade and Tom Addy stood down as Directors. Three nominations had been received for new Elected Directors. Peter Pinnington was proposed by Bill Patterson and seconded by Ian Lowe. Catriona Duncan was proposed by Ian Hepburn and seconded by Colin Morrison. Alec Duncan was proposed by Matthew Reade and seconded by Ann Evans. The three new Directors were welcomed by the Chairman.

7. Finance Report. The Treasurer, John Morrison gave an overview (attached) of the Financial Statements for the Company's year. He confirmed that RA Clement Associates had prepared an Auditors Report.

8. RA clement Associates have been re-appointed as Auditors.

9. Any Other Business. David Thomas, an Associate Member, requested a meeting with the Board about a proposal to lease some land that may also result in some premises for the Company. It was agreed to arrange a meeting as soon as possible.

10. There being no other business the Annual General Meeting was closed at 8.22 pm.

Refreshments were served.

Minutes taken by Belinda Hale, Administrator

*NORTH WEST MULL COMMUNITY
WOODLAND COMPANY LIMITED*

Notes on the Directors Report & Financial Statements for the year ending 31/07/2009

Good Evening

I am planning to give you a brief overview of the Financial Statements for the Company's year which ended on 31 July 2009. There are two full copies the Directors Report and Financial Statements posted on the walls of the hall plus there are copies of the statement of financial activities and balance sheet for anyone who requires them, and of course the full set of Report & Statements will be put on our website following this AGM.

Accounts for the past year did not require an audit but to ensure that they complied fully with Companies House and OSCR requirements, they were put together from my data by our appointed accountants Clements, and they also provided the Independent Examiners Report.

The Report & Financial Statements were presented to the Board at our 14th Dec 2009 meeting and were approved and signed off at that meeting.

The statement of financial activities is on the screen above me.

I propose to cover several points and then to take questions which I will endeavour to answer.

Financial aspects for the company for the last year were satisfactory but, in common with a lot of charities of our type, we are asset rich (the woodlands) but cash poor. We currently have very limited, significant income stream opportunities apart from the GCA grant which finishes next year but we have and will continue to have routine costs to run the business and develop our key objectives.

Thus the Board will continue to investigate opportunities to generate income over the coming years so that the Company will have a sound financial base.

We have been fortunate through hard work and opportunity to have been awarded grants over the year, these being

- the ongoing Growing Community Assets Grant awarded by the Lottery and HIE which covers salaries for our Development Manager, part time Administrator and a significant part of our overhead costs.

- £4,840 from FCS/SNH towards costs of Forest design Plan development, with the remaining costs met from our own funds.

- £13,142 from HIE towards the total costs of the feasibility and design studies for the affordable housing project together with our application for a Rural Housing for Rent grant where unfortunately we were not successful on the first round of awards.

- several small grants towards training activities and a £100 grant for trees from the Woodland Trust. The trees were planted in West Ardhru, adjacent to the Forest School area.

As mentioned last year, whilst we do not wish to be reliant on grants for ever, they are an essential part of our resources in the early years of the company.

Therefore we continue to be reliant on local Fundraising and Donations as an essential part of our cash generation, and I thank all who contributed and assisted in the various activities over the past year.

Fundraising and Donations contributed around £12,000 during the past year, an excellent result covering activities such as a Race Night, Disco, Rally Café, Raffles, Buyat Commission, Producers Markets income, Woodfuel and Woodmizer donations, Christmas tree sales and other gifts and donations.

We also have around £700 in restricted donations against future village Firework parties and provision of a bird hide.

Costs during the year covered specific projects covered by grants and the ongoing costs such as Insurances and office maintenance, communication costs etc.

Moving now to the balance Sheet which is now on the screen, you can see that

We ended the year with an adequate bank balance (£7,241), almost the same as the previous year (£7,550) which I feel is a creditable performance bearing in mind the general financial situation which has prevailed over the past months.

The Balance sheet shows a fractional increase from a year ago, this coming from a small increase in unrestricted funds. Equipment has been and will be depreciated over the years but land and woodlands do not have any depreciation charge.

The Trading Company has now been activated and Woodfuel and Timber Sales now go through the Trading Company Account.

Ian Hepburn has developed systems for our financial records onto a computer based format using Sage software and I thank him for that.

Finally we have re-appointed R.A. Clement Associates for preparation of our Annual Accounts, and for provision of financial advice.

Clements have sent the required copy of the Directors report & Financial Statements to Companies House and following this meeting I will be supplying a copy to OSCR plus the required Annual OSCR return and supplementary data schedule.

That is all I have to say and if anyone has any questions I will attempt to answer them. Thank you.
John Morrison - Treasurer & Director