

**Minutes of Board Meeting for
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd
Meeting held on Monday 27 March 2017**

Present: Colin Morrison, John Morrison, John Addy, Ian Hepburn and Andy Mayo

Also Present: Malcolm Ward (Development manager), Lesley Hastie (minutes)

1. CM **welcomed** everyone to the meeting

2. **Apologies:** Iain Thomson

3. The **minutes** of the Board Meeting held on **Monday 20th February 2017** were **signed** by CM as a true record of the proceedings.

4. Matters arising:

- CM still to arrange a discussion with neighbouring land-owner
- CARES money received, some of which will be repayable.
- Awaiting date for housing meeting.
- AM & MW met with Robin and Sam Sedgewick
- AQ now on a new contract
- Micro-hydro funding – ongoing
- The hide has been refurbished.
- Stobs have been given to the community orchard
- Tarpaulins – ongoing
- Neo-nicotinoids – on the agenda
- Potential board member – MW not had time to meet up but has information pack ready
- Accounts – Shona has all the information. IH just waiting to hear. IH explained the reasoning behind a formal loan arranged between the companies repayable over a number of years. This was discussed and agreed
- AGM – the date needs to be delayed until the accounts are received.
- Review of policies – IH developing a potential director's information pack and reworking the policy for directors. All to be dealt with at the next meeting.

5. Items not on the agenda

- AGM – it was agreed that an email go out to the directors to agree a date once the accounts are received – assuming this is before the next meeting

6. The **Finance Report** was circulated by AM prior to the meeting.

- February was quite quiet. The main expenditure was for training. Some costs have already been recovered in grant aid.
- The trading company is keeping an even keel. Paying for the use of Crannich is the main constraint. Every effort is to be made to be out of Crannich within 6-8 months.

7. The **Development Manager's Report** had been circulated by MW prior to the meeting.

- **Forest management** – MW met with Tilhill to discuss the practicalities of fencing Langamull South. IT has walked the area. There are some difficult-to-access areas and IT suggests using a helicopter to bring in materials. Pesticides – arise later in agenda.
- **Housing** – The Housing Association are busy with their year-end so MW and JM have not yet been given dates for a meeting. Ardhu plot sales have been pushed on social media. Langamull North plots need tidied up before being put with West Properties to market. There was a discussion around cheaper plots and which sites. MW - the lawyer had said burdens can be written in. For the Langamull plots it was discussed taking photographs and then marking the replant and riparian areas. It was suggested that photo be taken looking across the glen to Antium to show the possible view when the trees are felled (2020-2025).
- **Island Woodfuels** – MW completed his training and has his "tickets" for the use of trailers, tractor and telehandler. Simon Bartle has his for the telehandler and will help out when he can. Alan Quinn is now

working for us on an as-and-when required basis when he can. Reheat visited 10 March regarding a study on behalf of Argyll & Bute council. Steve Luker of Reheat spoke to MW at the woodfuels forum last week.

- **Crofting.** An open day has been suggested by Steve Maker. CM got permission from Rebecca Munro to use photographs taken of their croft.
- **Micro Hydro** –MW meeting GT tomorrow. Ground work costs are in from Angus Black and still awaited from TSL.
- **Toilets** – Nothing has been heard yet from A&BC's legal department.
- **Eagles** - Thanks to JA, JM and MW for the upgrade work – slabs to the sides for better shelter. Rachel-Ann French starts work 3rd April and the tours start 11th April. Jan Dunlop has requested the polytunnel be cleared and new woodchip to freshen it up. MW offering his help with this.

8. Project funding

- MW asking where the priorities lie regard the woodshed, the hydro debenture scheme and the replant funding; how much available funding is likely and where to push first. He is still waiting to hear from Johnny Bell.
- As shares are no longer as attractive as a form of private investment (due to tax changes), debentures are seen as a better way of raising funds. Johnny Bell to finalise checks on legal status of both shares and debentures. Starting the debenture scheme is dependent on getting the accounts finalised.

9. Micro Hydro

- JA wants to be comforted that we have enough water flowing in the burn. From visiting the site his estimate is low, but he was more reassured by the recent figures from Richard Drover (Turbine manufacturer) circulated by MW recently. AM was concerned by these figures. There was a discussion around how the figures are worked and backed up. **ACTION:** MW to speak to Rob at Kilfinnan Community Forest as they have a similar design and peak flow rate. JA, JM & AM to visit the intake area on Wednesday and again after the forecasted rain.

10. Pesticides – General Discussion

- There was a discussion about the pro's and con's of the use of pesticides. Test sites; size of test sites; timelines; fact gathering were discussed
- MW to speak to David Jardine (FCS District Manager); gather the best information available; explore the options ; consult with Forestry Commission and Tilhill; get a statement together ready for the AGM.
- It is a legal requirement to replant

11. Correspondence

- None received other than discussed above.
- Letter regarding shed still to be sent.

12. Any Other Competent Business

- None

13. Date of next meeting: Thursday 4th May at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm