

**Minutes of Board Meeting for  
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd  
Meeting held on Thursday 04 May 2017**

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

**Also Present:** Lesley Hastie (minutes)

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

2. **Apologies:** Iain Thomson (tried to join via Skype), Malcolm Ward.

3. The **minutes** of the Board Meeting held on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 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. Neighbours regarding the hydro scheme have met and asked for a meeting of all parties. Flow rate favourable for hydro scheme. MW to speak to Robert at Kilfinnan regarding their hydro scheme. Micro-hydro funding – ongoing. AM explained turbine multiple jets. Accounts are finalised so the debenture scheme could be started.
- The hide has been further refurbished.

**5. Items not on the agenda**

- Hydro Scheme

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

- The hydro scheme is now draining the charities cash.
- The trading company is keeping an even keel. To grow we need the shed built
- The PCC is talking of moving over to pellets. If so we need to talk about chip as there are no new customers on the horizon and oil is currently a cheaper option.
- There was a discussion around the shed, keeping the moisture content down and moisture content requirements. Sampling methodology was discussed.

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

- **Forest management** –Fencing Langamull South will cost approximately £43K. Quote includes all helicopter lifts for laying out materials but not for gates (though none should be required). JM, can we “buy” an extra year before replanting? CM, the forestry commission are almost certainly OK with that. AM, what happens if the community /members vote to not use pesticides. An EGM has been talked about by 1 member; 16 members are required to call an EGM and 75% of those present need to vote on the issue. AM a scientific/due diligence response is required to cover the board. MW has the methodology for the weevil count – he needs volunteers to help with the count. There was a discussion about this and re-fencing the area. Re-fencing of Langamull South to go ahead. A second quote is required for fencing – MW to put it out to tender.
- **Housing** – CM and MW met with Lesley McInnes of WHHA and Derek Logie of RHS. Since then DL has come back asking for Our Island Home design to be used although they felt he had accepted not doing so at the meeting. Need to prove that ARC have no contract in place. If DL has one in place, that is a separate issue. A need for housing needs to be shown. CM, an option would be to spread the development work and carry on as funds become available.
- **Island Woodfuels** – The figures and cash-flow were discussed along with the varying returns on different types of wood and its uses. MW trying to source some larch as there is currently none cut and accessible. There is some still standing, but not in easily accessible areas. There may be some on the haul route and MW should try to get some via Tilhill who are currently harvesting on the island. There is sitka available. JM, Napier university made data available 2 years ago and must have more by now of using it internally once kiln dried. IH, An exit strategy is needed for the bulk logs as they are uneconomical. JM to cut and deliver more small bags of logs to Treshnish.

- **Eagles** - JM covered the misleading parking sign (as he and MW had discussed). LH to laminate a "P" sign to be put up to indicate the parking area. JM secured the netting at the hide. Short-term fresh chipping is not available but JM has raked the existing chip in order to tidy the area. He will also put some fresh greenery around the hide. LH has asked the days and times of the tours

## 8. Policy Reviews

- Several of the board members have points to be changed in various policies. LH to implement them and recirculate the policies for review again and hopefully adopt them at the next board meeting. CM to look at the points system within the crofting policy

## 9. Eagle Fund Arrangements

- It was agreed to run with CM's proposal and review the wording in a year's time. This will be launched at the AGM.

## 10. AGM date

- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 in Dervaig Village Hall. LH to check the hall is available; put out notices; check the members list is up to date

## 11. WHHA Housing Meeting Review

- Covered above.
- IH has concerns. These are noted.

## 11. Correspondence

- Revaluation Notice for Crannich – check charity relief
- Arkaig Community Forest requesting information and a visit. £100 fee to be asked for visit
- Dervaig Community Orchard – they should be charged for sawn timber. They can help themselves to slabs. They can have woodchip when there are staff available to deliver
- Andy Robinson and Alex Duncan both to receive letters agreeing to work AFTER the crofting act has been checked for what constitutes improvement. No objection to their plans.
- Corporation Tax Notice – LH to inform R A Clement and ask about late submission fine reimbursement's
- Dave Sexton – Asking what last year's money has been spent on - CM to respond (no applications yet)
- Dave Sexton – Hide improvements – JM has dealt with some of the issues raised.
- R A Clement – Interim fees – board informed of fee levels
- National Forest Inventory – MW to say yes
- Tree Health Meeting on Mull – Ask for feedback
- CM received 2 emails for W Patterson regarding the use of chemicals
- CM received an email from J Laura to say he did not like the statement issued.

## 12. Any Other Competent Business

- Isle of Ulva – It has become apparent that the island may be up for sale. It has a lot of potential for community development around tourism and crofts/starter farms for repopulation. This was discussed and the capacity at board level. The Board agreed that the potential of a community purchase should be investigated further. Funding would be available for a project manager. It was agreed for CM to speak to Moray Finch (MICT) and IH to speak to Ailsa Raeburn (HIE).
- TSL – JM, TSL have let us down recently by not notifying us in advance of the lorry and driver not going to be available for a period. MW to ask for notice (as given before) of periods of haulage not being available
- JM – this coming year will be his last as a director

**13. Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June after the AGM.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm

