**Minutes of Board Meeting for**

**North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd**

**Meeting held on Monday 1st October 2018 @ 7.30pm**

**Present:** Colin Morrison (**CJM**), Ian Hepburn (**IH**), Rhuri Munro (**RM**), John Morrison (**JM**), John Addy (**JA**) Craig Murray (**CRM**) Belinda Hale (**BH**), Jean Lanteri Laura (**JLL**), Pippa Gatty (**PG**)

**Also Present:** Helen Murray (minutes)

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

**2.** A**pologies**: Andy Mayo Craig Whittaker, Iain Thomson, John Morrison

**3.** The minutes of the Board Meeting held on 4th September were signed by **CJM** as a true record of the proceedings.

**CF action** – **CM/AM/IH** to go to inspect plots for sale as they need to be laid out , maybe some low level of landscaping to make them more “attractive” .

 **4.** **Matters arising:**

* None not already raised

**5.** **Finance Report** – **AM** gave apologies, no formal report this month. Brief statement read outgiving current bank balances and some significant credits and debits.

**6.** The **Development Manager’s Report**

* Woodshed.
Final deliveries of the blockwork has been completed after some last minute changes to arrangements. The internal walls should be completed in 2/3 weeks. Tenders are out for final wood working and electrics. Still need advice on what generator to purchase. (One of the electricians has already advised they do not wish to tender.)
* Burial Ground
Still awaiting final response from Argyll and Bute planning. I have chased this and been told it is with the head of planning, Tim Williams, for final consideration. **IH** we should be challenging why it’s taking so long for them to come back to us
* Peatland Restoration
this is on the agenda to be discussed with FCS at the meeting in October. SNH Peatland Action are considering a staged approach to this by tackling small sections at a time. Scottish Water have been in touch and will work with us to ensure no adverse effect on the Dervaig water supply. They are not against the peatland restoration however they do wish to work closely with us to ensure the quality of the water supply.
* Housing.
We now have a sub-committee for this project. RHS is the preferred provider for the feasibility study. They have been informed of this subject to funding. Completed documentation has been submitted to Rural Housing Fund. They have confirmed receipt and will respond to us by 2nd November!
* Dervaig Toilets
At suggestion of **CJM** I spoke to Ailsa about funding from the Sustainable Tourism Fund. This fund has a minimum grant of £50K though. I did suggest we could add this in with the Ulva proposal as a unified NWMCWC application however Ailsa advised the fund is place specific - about visitor pressure in that place and can't see the justification for putting it in with Ulva. Ailsa did point me in the direction of a Scottish Sea Farms fund that may be applicable so an application is being submitted to them.

**7. Micro Hydro –** no update this month

**8. Isle of Ulva**

**JA** - Develop manager role being re advertised.

General update – looking to repair/improve the pier and slipways at Ulva ferry. Ailsa has put in an expression of interest to get funding. Emergency repairs to be done 1st, then look at improvements. Housing- architects will be sending in options /proposals soon – Ailsa is chasing. We have people coming to look at home energy, water supply etc. Good conversations with A&B planners – looking at a “local place plan” – hopefully will be sympathetic to helping us build. HSCHT – study to look at options for housing on Ulva, allocations strategy, establishing a need etc. the information will feed into the large RHIF grant application. Agriculture/land use – farm now in our name with **RM** as named person. Claire S is helping us with paperwork. Has advised us of an agricultural grant that may be available – need to convene an agricultural advice group soon.

Land use options assessment - also need to get this going – **JA** has circulated ideas etc. previously to the board via email. Need to get a workshop to identify who our stake holders and “go to” people might be. Deer mgt. – Rob is due again soon, everything is in place for the cull to continue. Woodland – WT for Scotland are still keen to plant trees & to involve Roc to plant on Gometra. Ulva Ferry School have also been in touch regarding a Woodland trust schools project. Oyster farm – potential for a new business – local business man thinks it’s worth doing but there are numerous logistical issues – e.g. no roads and also requires planning permission. Have appointed Colliers Estate Agent to advise on a marketing strategy for the big house. Preference is for someone to take it over on a long lease and to run a business from it. Extreme option would be to sell it. Voluntary work 0 RM has been handling the sheep, sorting paths and signage with Rebecca, the garden team have been very busy. Many thanks to all involved.

**JLL** – what happened to the seaweed dredging proposal? **CJM** – we put in our objection **BH** – looks possible that the Scottish Govt. will not back it. **JA** A&B have a seaweed manager – looking at small scale hand harvesting of kelp.

**JA** – suspected asbestos on Ulva – have sent off some samples for analysis. Ask a local electrician to get some information re solar panels, check Ardalum electrics and to connect the replacement controller in the generator shed.

**9. Correspondence**

* Email from Twin Deer Law re Ardhu Hydro Financing Ltd – do we still need this registered company? **IH** – it was set up in case we wanted to run a debenture arrangement for the Hydro – it’s a minimal annual cost so suggest keeping it for now. Board agreed.

**10. Any Other Competent Business**

* **Community “open morning”**Agree to run another open morning on 24 or 25th October. **CW** has agreed to host this again
* **Kildavie
JLL** has heard about some of the finds this year, may need to take this into consideration for the Forest Design Plan. **IH** questioned why, we as the landowners, have not had any formal finds info from them. **HM** to contact HARP for more information.
* **Forestry Commission** meeting – 4/10 – still no agenda despite chasing – Board do expect and agenda to be presented. – **CRM** to chase again. **IH** reiterated that the discussion this time is around the already agreed FDP not the changes currently being discussed. We will need to register these changes. We can say, in principle that we need to fence and clear deer with a view to replanting in autumn 2019.
* **IH** outlined the MNWG maps to **JLL** and **PG** as they missed the meeting.
* Mull Eagle Watch has been nominated for an award
* **Communication – IH** has asked **BH** to put together a regular Ulva newsletter – every 2-3 months. She will need to be given content for this – photos words etc.
**JLL** is to create a NWMCWC newsletter – again, needs input to this please
* Director Training – agree to book Tues 6th November

**11. Date of next meeting:**

Monday 5th November at 7.00pm. – NOTE earlier time. The meeting closed at 9.00 pm