

**Minutes of Board Meeting for
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd
Meeting held on Tuesday 23rd March, 2021 @ 7.00pm via Zoom**

Present: Colin Morrison (**CM**), Tricia Evans (**TE**), Pippa Gatty (**PG**) Wendy Reid (**WR**) Jean Lanteri Laura (**JLL**) Andrew Primrose (**AP**) Jo Prior (**JP**) Tracy Mayo (**TM**)

Apologies: James Cameron

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

1. Welcome - CM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies – James Cameron

3. Matters Arising:

SSEN Mull/Coll Marine Cable replacement

Burial Site

Plots for Sale

DTAS Code of Conduct

4. Minutes of Board meetings 22nd February 2021 – all had read, no questions so approved and signed off.

5. Finance – JC sent apologies. Advised that it's been quiet this month, nothing out of the ordinary to report. **HM** has paid some large invoices that we can reclaim at a later date, whilst other grant claims have been submitted. Accounts for 2019/2020 are in hand with accountant – expecting drafts before next meeting, where they will need to be agreed and signed off for the end April Companies House deadline. **JC** is still dealing with the claim for the wood processor. **WR** need to start a budget process from 1st August – **HM & WR** to work on templates.

6. Woodfuels - Matthew Reade has resigned from the Trade Co board. Andy Mayo (**AM**) has offered to become a director – Board approves. Both logs and woodchip prices will increase from 1st May – customers advised. **AP** hoping to meet with **AM**, and the Woodfuels staff soon. **AP** also looking at marketing the business, offering more products etc.

7. Ulva – WR circulated her update prior to the meeting – all had read.

Updates following report: Ecology BS have approved the mortgage. Board delighted, thanks to **WR** for all her hard work to achieve this. Has arranged a pre-start meeting with the contractor at end of March. **CM** and /or **AP** to attend. **WR** has advised tenants.

Ulva House – the SU Project Manager has had to resign for medical reasons and will finish end April 2021. **WR** has spoken to the funders about our options. Both have approved us re-deploying an employee into the role if we can evidence capability. **WR** proposed to Board that we re-deploy the SU administrator to the role as she has the relevant skills and experience. If approved, we will have to readvertise the administrator vacancy.

Land Mgt group – following the meeting on 4th March to discuss bracken control, a Land Management Group is now required for Ulva. **AP** will arrange – **WR, JLL CM** are interested in being members. There are numerous external people who will also want to be involved.

Flag – WR needs to plan how pier users will be able to access once work starts. Not gone out to tender yet as we don't have the licence in place – is being chased. Look to go to tender mid-end April. Need to know all the timings etc before we can speak to the users, there are a number of options to be discussed.

Boathouse – electrical survey has been carried out, await report. New tenants are in and painting etc. Look to re-open from week of 19th April, a few days a week, TBC which days.

CM: Scot Gov have asked the islands for their views on easing the C19 restrictions. **WR** has spoken to the Ulva residents who are in favour of option 1 (islands remain in line with mainland tiers) and board approve **WR** to submit

a response on this basis. **CM** asked for Board opinion as he has also been asked to respond on behalf of NWMCWC, after discussion it was felt there was not enough information available for them to make an informed decision.

8. Replant – **TE** sent a brief update prior to the meeting. Sylvaculture have rebranded to TreeStory, are now an eco-carbon investor. Positive replant meeting on 1st March. Maps etc are being digitised. 14K+ trees from Woodland Trust have arrived and are at the tree nursery for care until they can be planted. Looking at tendering for local contractors to do the groundwork prior to an autumn replant.

9. Correspondence

email received from a neighbour re Ulva – draft response circulated by **CM**. Can all read and agree via email in coming days please.

10. AOB

- Craigaig Bothy – enquiries coming in for 2021 – do Board agree to putting the managing of it to Island Holiday Cottages for this year? Board agrees to market Craigaig with IHC for 2021.
- NWM Environmental Policy **AP/JLL** – **JLL** has spoken to Green Element, re setting up our carbon footprint, environmental mgt plan and so on. Will take time to produce.
- Coffee Morning -**TM** – have had 2 now, good to engage with people especially those more isolated, has been given 3 new devices for those without to use, will keep them going fortnightly for time being. Can see it being used even after C19 over, in the winter, bad weather etc.
- **TM** has submitted an application to the Strengthening the Communities Fund – won't hear till June.
- Peat Bog – **CM** – blanket bog in the middle of the glen. NatureScot have funding to look at returning it to bog, there is a lot involved – do we want to look at it again? Board needs more info. **TE** to get TreeStory thoughts. Agenda item for next month.
- Burial Ground – **JLL** has been investigating, looking at various areas, accessibility etc
- Dervaig Toilets – waiting to hear about planning permission – build should be relatively straight forward. **CM** will share the plans etc with neighbours.
- Plots – **PG** has spoken to lawyer – will chase.
- Board needs to be made aware that one of the companies who tendered (unsuccessfully) for the SU Project, has sent several emails asking about our process. This is being followed up appropriately.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm – next meeting will be Monday 19th April at 7.00pm via Zoom.