

**Minutes of Board Meeting for  
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd  
Meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

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

**Also Present:** Chris Liddell (Development Manager) and Belinda Hale (Administrator and Co. Secretary).

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

2. There were **apologies** from Iain Thomson.

3. The **Minutes** of the Board Meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were **signed** by CM as a true record of the proceedings

4. **Matters Arising.** CL has spoken to Iain Moody about the felling on the boundaries and asked for it to be arranged as soon as possible, bearing in mind that the ground is very boggy. Details of the proposed Croft House are still awaited from one of the Crofters. He has confirmed that he wishes to build it as an improvement but information is still required about exact location, size, approximate cost and timing of building. **Action CL** to chase up.

AM has approached Ken Coleman (a mainland vehicle dealer) who has agreed to find a suitable van for us. **Action CL** to tell Robin Sedgewick that we are not in a position to buy his vehicle at the moment as it is not suitable for our current requirements.

CL will continue to progress the idea of a training course run by Paths for All, but it was agreed that it is not a priority at the moment due to harvesting in areas where footpaths would be most useful.

It has been ascertained that our neighbour is liable for 50% of fencing maintenance costs. **Action CM** to look at fenceline and deeds so an informed decision can be made as to the best way forward.

5. Two items were declared that were not on the Agenda: i. Timber Thefts, ii. Kildavie Bridge.

6. The **Finance Report** had been circulated by AM prior to the Meeting. Cash flow is healthy at the moment and balances in all bank accounts are good. However, some of the money is earmarked for fencing, shed and repayment of Crannich purchase loan.

7. The **Development Manager's Report** had been circulated by CL prior to the Meeting. CL has checked with the harvesting contractors at West Ardhu and all vehicles are now carrying first aid kits. There is a slight backlog of saw timber. It was agreed that Tilhill should be instructed not to sell it elsewhere too cheaply, but hold on to it for a while if necessary as saw logs are not time sensitive like pulpwood.

Concerns were expressed about the difficulty contacting the chipping contractor as his poor communication had led to stocks getting worryingly low. **Action CL** to discuss this with him next time the contractor comes. There had been a small spillage of hydraulic fluid from the large trailer which has now been mended. The drying floor at Crannich is not operational due to a broken part. **Action CL** to find out how soon it can be mended as our BSL registration depends on the chip being air dried.

Historic Scotland have offered no objections to the proposed housing plots. IAH, CL and CM had a meeting with the housing development officer re the Our Island Home project. The original funding option has been withdrawn by Argyll and Bute Council (A&B) and the officer will come back with new proposals. The Directors discussed a variety of possible options and agreed in principle what might be acceptable.

Although some of the brash has been cleared from near the Forest School, the site itself is still badly affected and unusable. **Action CL** to liaise with Tilhill to arrange for the site to be cleared properly as soon as possible.

8. **Woodfuel and Shed.** JM to ask AQ again about tractor availability for kindling production.

The proposed shed will be sited in West Ardhu and draft plans have been submitted to A&B for pre application approval. Ronnie Neil has been asked to design the drying floor as it is important that it is exactly right. **Action IAH** to move this forward. **Action CL** to put together the specifications for the ground works and invite local contractors to tender. The target for completion of the shed is early summer.

9. **Housing** was dealt with in item 7.

**10. Woodland Burials.** The full soil depth survey is due to be carried out on Wednesday this week. The results are crucial to the progress of this project. CL has discretion to extend the area surveyed if too much of the original area proves unsuitable. Once a satisfactory survey has been received it will be possible to get quotes for ground works, de stumping and fencing.

**11. Date for AGM.** The accounts are due to be sent to Clements by the end of the week. It was agreed that the likely date for the AGM will be in April. The specific date will be decided at the next Board Meeting.

**12. Name of Company.** Due to the wide range of projects now undertaken, it was suggested that the word 'Woodland' should be dropped from the name of the Company. ie North West Mull Community Company Limited. A change of this sort will have to be agreed by the Members at an EGM, possibly held straight after the AGM in April. The Board agreed that they liked the idea of the change and that it should be put to the Members to decide. CM pointed out that it would be worth checking the Articles of Association to see if there are any other minor changes required that could be dealt with at the same time. **Action all Directors** to look at the Articles with this in mind.

**13. Correspondence.** We have been notified by RSPB that they are undertaking a Golden Eagle Survey on Mull this year and may require access to our woodlands. Dave Sexton will liaise with us as necessary.

**14. Any Other Competent Business.** i. **Timber Thefts.** It has been reported to several Directors that people with vans and trailers have been observed removing poles from stacks in Langamull. In at least one instance a chainsaw was used to shorten poles prior to their theft. A gas cylinder has been stolen from outside a caravan on a Forest Croft. It was agreed that locking the gates should only be used as a last resort as it will cause great inconvenience to people who use the track as access to their residences. Initially an email will be circulated to Members asking for their help in stopping the thefts. They will be asked to be vigilant and take the numbers of vehicles seen using the Langamull forest road, and pass them on to Directors or Staff. A notice will also be put on the website. **Action BH** to draft the text and circulate to the Board for approval. It was also agreed that in the short term customers will not be able to buy poles on a self-collect basis, but will have to wait for them to be delivered.

ii. **Kildavie Bridge.** All the materials are now available, including the woodmized timber, for the repair of Kildavie Bridge. It was agreed that it should be a target to get the repairs complete before the next Board Meeting, weather permitting. **Action CM** to organise a work party as soon as possible.

**15.** The next **Board Meeting** will be held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015 (not 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb as previously reported) at 7.30pm in Dervaig Church Hall, and the one after is likely to be held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March.

The Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

## Development Report November 2014

1. **Timber Haul Road** – All major movements of timber across from Langamull have now been completed future movements will be restricted to fuelwood. No further repair work will be carried out to the Road until we complete the movement of fuel wood and the repair will be tied in with the ongoing activity in West Ardhu.
2. **Timber Harvesting Langamull** –The final measure of available fuel wood in Langamull South is complete the out turn overall for Langamull is as follows  
37,404 tonnes (50.2%) were logs,  
31,786 tonnes (42.7%) were pulp, and  
5,295 tonnes (7.1%) were fuel/chip.  
74,485 tonnes in total  
The above is basically in line with initial predictions.
3. **Timber Harvesting West Ardhu** – harvesting commenced mid-July and is progressing well  
Output to date is 7624 tonnes, 76% log, 18% pulp and 6% fuel/chip. Log percentage will, obviously, drop as we process roadside stocks which are predominantly pulp and chip. Recent site inspections found no problems. Logs are temporarily being left by the roadside while the sawmill runs down stocks.
4. **Boundary Fenceline** – after waiting patiently for years a neighbour now requires the trees threatening our boundary fence to be cleared. The ground in question is very boggy, making cutting more risky and extraction uneconomical. Iain Moody from UPM Tilhill has been asked to engage professional cutters as soon as possible.
5. **Island Woodfuels**
  - a. After advance warning of notice to quit from Crannich Farm, we have submitted plans for pre-application approval for a 40m x 10m woodchip shed in West Ardhu adjacent to the polytunnel. It will have underfloor heating and space for an operator to get changed.
  - b. There have been reports of pole thefts from Langamull. Response to be discussed on 5/1/15.
  - c. Latest batch of chipping has been delayed due to technical problems with the contractors machine. Contingency plans need to be discussed.
  - d. There was a spill of hydraulic fluid from the large trailer in the Crannich yard at the New Year. This has been contained in large part to Sam and Robin Sedgewick's support.
6. **Forest Crofts** –Crofters meeting scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> March resulted in a request that we try to arrange some Technical input to facilitate the Crofters Forest Design Plans. John Little has been contacted to obtain costs for advice following which we will contact the crofters to check if they wish to proceed.  
A Crofter has indicated that he wishes to erect a house on his croft as an improvement. This means the company could be liable to pay for the increased value of the croft should he relinquish the croft.
7. **Micro Generation – Hydro West Ardhu** -  
A&BC planners now want separate applications for the new public road access and the micro hydro site, contradicting what they said last year. They also want to include more land in the application to allow for deviations to the pipelines. Bruce and Neill are in discussions with A&BC as to the exact format of the application as there appears to be two or more views in A&BC. IAH has advised Bruce and Neill that as the pipeline route has been walked significant diversions are unlikely.
8. **Housing Plots for sale** – Planning applications for the 2 West Ardhu plots are still being considered. Pre-application approval for the Langamull plots indicated that it is likely that only three of the four plots would be approved and that we should contact Historic Scotland (HS) for their input. A site visit is intended in February. Awaiting feedback from West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WOSAS).
9. **Woodland Burials**  
Soil survey will be conducted this week.
- 10 **Rural Housing Scotland - Our Island Home** – Our plans are in the next Strategic Housing Development Plan (SHIP) so planning permission should be a formality. However, funding for construction is now limited to Registered Social Landlords. IAH, CL and CM met with Lesley McInnes of West Highland Housing Association (WHHA) and Moira MacVicar of ABC to explore options for working with WHHA and await their proposal.

**North West Mull Community Woodland Company Limited**  
**Finance Report to 31 s t December 2014**

**Current Balance**

Petty : £45.45

Bank : Clydesdale: £24,729.62 Triodos: £11,175.35 Total: £35,950.42

**Significant movements since last report (Nov and Dec)**

Debits

1. Rural housing conference fees £367.00
2. New website and domain renewals £258.96
3. Insurance £2,735.54

Credits

1. 100 Club £492.00
2. HMRC VAT Repayment £7,373.83
3. Highland Game £613.21
4. Rural Parliament presentation £100.00

**Upcoming Significant Movements**

*(excluding regular cost/credits)*

1. Debit – Planning for Woodsheds £2,000
2. Debit – Woodland Burials soil depth surveys £1,500

**Haul Route**

In the coming months, there will be one further bill related to Servitude final payment to be paid to FCS (£15,000).

**Trading Company**

Current Balance: £7,652.33

Significant Movements:

Sales credits : £16,647.35

Operational debits : £4,474.66

Charity Management Fees debit: £6,528.00

Andy Mayo