

**Minutes of the Board Meeting for
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd
Meeting held on Monday 21st April 2014**

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

Also Present: Belinda Hale (Administrator and Company Secretary).

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

2. There were **apologies** from Neil Munro.

3. **Appointment of Officers. Chairman:** Colin Morrison, proposed by AM, seconded by JM.

Vice Chairman: John Morrison, proposed by CM, seconded by AM.

Treasurer: Andy Mayo, proposed by CM, seconded by JA.

CM welcomed IAH to the Board and there was discussion about maintaining continuity while a new Development Manager is recruited and inducted. It was agreed that the Administrator's increased workload requires a review with the possibility of a further increase in working hours.

4. The **Minutes** of the Board Meeting held on 14th March 2014 were **signed** by CM as a true record of the proceedings.

5. **Matters Arising.** Due to unforeseen circumstances IAH's retirement dinner had to be postponed. New dates have been suggested and agreement will be reached via email circulation. IAH has received a price from Collum Scott for the surveys of the Forest Crofts and their boundaries. The majority of crofters have agreed this so he is to be asked proceed as soon as possible. Gregor Munro has offered to be tape holder to expedite the survey. **Action IAH.**

JA has not yet had a response from Ian Hill re the proposed excavation at Kildavie so will chase.

6. **Two items** were **declared** that are not on the **Agenda:** Neighbour's fence, new website.

7. The **Finance Report** had been circulated by AM prior to the Meeting. The Directors noted that the Kildavie path is complete and agreed that is pleasing to have spent some money on an access project. The training grant from FCS Seedcorn didn't cover the chainsaw training, but a good deal was negotiated with the trainer making AQ's course a manageable price. All the candidates passed. Despite a major service the Woodmizer is still not working properly due to a hydraulic failure. This will necessitate more money being spent to get it up and running.

8. **Development Report.** IAH had previously circulated a progress report to maintain continuity until the new Development Manager takes over. Most of the road repairs have been completed although Langamull North still needs scraping. There is still no news from FCS re the tests for phytophthera ramorum although our trees continue to look healthy. IAH has approached FCS to purchase some of their fuel quality timber if a price can be agreed. JA is to collect the information boards for Kildavie this week and AQ will install them.

9. **Recruitment.** The advertisement for a new Development Manager was launched at the AGM and has appeared in the Oban Times. It is also on our website and the Office noticeboard. One further appearance in the Oban Times has been booked and the ad will also be in the May issue of Round and About. One application has already been received.

10. **Woodfuel.** There was a sharp increase in firewood sales last month, although chip deliveries were down slightly. Chip delivery costs increased due to Robin having to go off Island at short

notice and MBS making the deliveries. At a meeting of the Woodfuel subcommittee it was agreed that firewood deliveries need to be made using AQ and a company vehicle rather than depending on JA and his trailer. The best solution is likely to be the purchase or lease of a 7.5 ton truck with a crane that can deliver both firewood and chip in 1 cu m bags. This would reduce delivery costs of both chip and firewood considerably.

11. Scottish Government Strengthening Communities Programme. It was unanimously agreed that five Directors (Colin Morrison, John Morrison, Andy Mayo, John Addy, Iain Thomson) and the Company Secretary (Belinda Hale) should be the authorised signatories for the capacity building grant awarded under the above scheme. **Action BH** to complete and send the paperwork.

12. The Mull Deer Management Group has enquired about our Deer Management Plan. This will be considered in detail when the re fencing programme is due to commence.

13. There was no **Correspondence** requiring discussion.

14. Any Other Competent Business. A neighbour has requested that a shared maintenance fence be repaired or renewed as soon as possible. It was agreed that he will be asked to pay half the cost of stock fencing and that NWMCWC Ltd will pay the other half plus the extra for installing deer rather than stock stobs. IT has agreed to carry out the work. It was noted that there are similar shared fences with other neighbours that will require attention soon. It is possible that some of the costs involved may be defrayed using the SRDP grant due shortly.

A quotation has been received from a local person to create a new website. It was agreed that he be asked to proceed as soon as possible.

It was noted that there are still a few outstanding issues re the SEPA certification of the new sewage system installed by a neighbour. IAH agreed to check if there are any contributory delays on our side.

15. The next Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th May 2014 at 7.30pm in Dervaig Church Hall. The following Meeting is likely to take place on Monday 9th June.

The Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Development Report April 2014

1. **Timber Haul Road** – Repair work completed. UPM Tilhill have been asked to arrange the scraping of Langamull North.
2. **Phytophthora Ramorum** – Still awaiting FCS sampling. Latest guidance and licensing would mean that we could use any infected trees on island for woodfuel or sawlogs as long as any co-product i.e. bark, slabs etc was incinerated. No Change
3. **Timber Harvesting** –The tidy up of Langamull North complete. Work is proceeding in Langamull South but some White Tail activity has been noted. Minimal impact, agreement for day to day harvesting activity locations to be agreed with RSPB direct.
4. **Island Woodfuels**– New operation going well Andy Mayo's report will cover financials. All equipment operational. Alan's training now complete apart from tractor and trailer, other training being delivered W/c 21/04/14.
5. **Forest Crofts** –Crofters meeting scheduled for 11th March resulted in a request that we try to arrange some Technical input to facilitate the Crofters Forest Design Plans and that we try to arrange for a surveyor to mark out all boundaries on a shared cost basis. Quote obtained and passed to crofters for comment.
6. **Access Feasibility Study** –Construction of the new path to Kildavie is complete and the signage is ready for collection and installation.
7. **Medium Term Income** – the application for revenue funding from a SG programme to allow us to develop our projects over the next 2 years and provide a replacement for IAH has been accepted. And we will receive £70K over 2 years.
8. **Micro Generation – Hydro West Ardhu -**
 - a. Further drawings have been requested by A&BC, will now take forward planning in conjunction with Bruce and Neill.
9. **Kildavie** – Further excavation at Kildavie is planned for the late summer, this will be managed by a firm of archaeological consultants under a contract with NWMCWC Ltd.
10. **Rural Housing Scotland - Our Island Home** – The final winning design was chosen and revealed at the Rural Housing Scotland the 90 m² design has been costed at under £100K for the build on a serviced plot with an anticipated annual heating cost of less than £300, work is underway to source funding for the project.

IAH 16/04/2014

North West Mull Community Woodland Company Limited
Finance Report to 28th March 2014

Current Balance

Petty : £6.17

Bank : £8,817.70

Significant movements since last report

Debits

1. Repayment of short term loan £10,000.00
2. Kildavie path £4,230.00
3. Micro Hydro legal fees £1,512.00
4. Monthly payment on woodfuel equipment £1,107.75

Credits

1. February Tillhill payment £3,000.00
2. Croft Rent £741.20
3. Energy Savings Trust £1,065.35

Note that Salaries for this month were over £1,000 pounds higher as Alan is now on the payroll, in future months, this will drop back as Ian is no longer paid and his replacement will be covered by the DTAS grant

Upcoming Significant Movements

(excluding regular cost/credits)

1. Credit £3,087.94 FCS Seedcorn fund for training
2. Credit £1,740 Chainsaw training participants
3. Debit £1,920.00 Chainsaw Trainer
4. Debit £975.00 Legal fees for Crannich purchase
5. Debit £900.00 Annual membership of group certification scheme
6. Debit £3,705.12 Crane and Telehandler training
7. Debit £2,006.53 PAYE Quarterly payment
8. Debit £1215.30 Woodmizer service and training

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: £4,148.10

Significant Movements:

Sales credits : £5,749.31

VAT Credit: £1,012.81

Operational debits : £8,661.90

Charity Management Fees debit: £3,264.00

Andy Mayo