

Minutes of
NORTH WEST MULL COMMUNITY WOODLAND COMPANY LIMITED
Meeting Held Dervaig Church Hall at 7.30pm
On Thursday 9th April 2009.

1. Present: Adam Dawson, Ann Evans, John Morrison, Matthew Reade,
Aly Taylor, Calum Duffy, Andy Mortley, Chris Baker.
2. In Attendance: Ian Hepburn (Development Manager), Michelle Cowe (Administrator)
3. Apologies: Colin Morrison, Tony Proud, Tom Addy
4. John Morrison was appointed as Chairman of this meeting in the absence of CM & TA
5. **Welcome:** JM opened the meeting by announcing the news of Colin & Julie's safe arrival of Murdo John Morrison. Email to be sent to CM from the board and employees of NWMCWC Action: MC
6. **Matters Arising:** The woodmizer agreement to be revised. The Duart Car park job has been completed and an invoice has been sent. The Treshnish firewood is ready. Alec Duncan is happy to join the subcommittee of Forest Crofts.
7. **Declaration of Items Not on The agenda:** Letley Land at West Ardhu and feedback from Firewood questionnaires.
8. **Finance Report:** As attached. In addition to the report JM stated that cash flow needs to be kept an eye on as there are up and coming costs. Sources of funds that have been identified need to be followed up in particular Robertson Trust, Hugh Fraser Foundation & Esmee Fairbairn Foundation Action: IH JM also pointed out that the Big Lottery Fund End of Year Report needs to be completed and returned by 31st May 2009.
9. **Development Manager's Report:** as attached. In the future SAGE accounting software will be required at a cost of approximately £1200 - £1500. The Clydesdale Bank needs chasing up again in connection with the Trading Company Account Action: IH The road survey should commence this month. We expect to have approval of the Forest Design Plan by the end of May and Rural Homes For Rent decision on funding in June 2009.
10. **Utilising Local Timber:** Adam Dawson AD has been in communication with Andrew Knight in connection with utilisation of local timber for cladding and fences etc on developments on the island. Wings Over Mull are re locating and may wish to use local timber for buildings that will be sited at Crannich. It would be most likely that Larch would be bought from Iggesund/ FCS, and then processed at Crannich on site. Iggesund has 40 tonnes of Larch at roadside on Mull at present. It suggests that the woodmizer operator once appointed would be in a position to make planks and have ready for sale. AD proposes that he takes this forward. Calculations require to be carried out woodmizer operator x+ cost of timber =cost of the finished product Action : AD & MR

In principal we are interested if the figures stack up.

Investigations into the cost of a treatment plant should also be carried out. Reconditioned treatment plant cost approximately £35-£40 K; there may be a possibility of grant funding up to 50%

A feasibility Study/ Business Plan is required for the community sawmill.

An invite was received from Peter Mac Donald & Kate Tuer of Forestry Commission to visit their woodmizer site at Appin where they process mainly hardwoods for sale to local furniture makers and boat builders. This visit could be funded via AD's post as Project Officer of Argyll Islands Native Woodland Partnership. At present as we haven't got anyone in post as our woodmizer operator the offer is to be declined but would like to visit later on in the year should the opportunity arise again.

11. **Firewood Questionnaire:** AD presented the results of the questionnaire. 18 responses were received. All the comments will be added to the finished document Action: MC The powerpoint presentation will be sent to the Firewood Subcommittee and to the office to be filed. The subcommittee will arrange a meeting Action: CD, AT, AD & AD. It was estimated that 200- 300 trees are required annually to satisfy the firewood market. The roadline will

produce a fair amount of timber. It is thought that the Thinning Licence for West Ardhu is for a 5 year period. This needs to be clarified Action: MC

Investigate a felling licence for an area at West Ardhu?

12. **GCA/ Milestones:** The attached Milestones Summary with the amendments was agreed to by the board. This will require approval by Claire Hannah, CLU. Action: MC
13. **WESCO:** CM's comment: "If this can be made to work even for a relatively small income, I think we should go for it since we could be in a good position to expand if more options became available. We must however be guided by Ian in relation to the financial position." IH is in the process of putting together an agreement for WHHA / PCC Project Manager. This will include 'Heads of Terms', Guarantee of fuel supply' etc . Grant funding of 50% may be available and loans/ soft loans are being investigated. It is estimated that this will use 230 tonnes of chips annually which is about 300- 400 tonnes of timber. Unanimous support from the board was given on taking this project forward. AE will inform the steering group of the decision made by the board.
14. **Sub Committee Tasks:** IH prepared a template document for the subcommittees to use. JM suggests that these papers are used for a month or so. AT suggests that a leader is appointed for each subcommittee.
 1. Sawmill/ Woodmizer: MR, JM, IH
 2. Housing: CM, JM, AE
 3. Forest Management Plan: AM, CB, (AD, CD & Stuart Maidment to be asked) Action: AM
 4. Crofting: MR, CM, AT, Alec Duncan
 5. Woodfuel: MR, CD, AT, AD
 6. Paths: JM, TA, CM, CD, AE
 7. WESCO: AE & IH
15. **Correspondence:** Final invoice from Tilhill UPM of £2508 + vat and NFLS letter of thanks.
16. **Terminating Appointment of Director:** Rob Strachan no longer living within the area and has not attended a meeting for sometime so therefore unable to continue to be a director. Paperwork signed off by JM and will be sent to Companies House by MC.
17. **Land at West Ardhu:** The land sale is almost complete and the new owners will be re fencing their boundaries in due course. In the near future we will need to talk with the roads department re: the access road and any planning permission required. Action: JM
20. **Date & Time of next meeting: Thursday 7th May at 7.30pm in Dervaig Church Hall.**