

**Minutes of Board Meeting for  
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd  
Meeting held at Dervaig Church Hall at 7:30 pm on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

**Present:** Colin Morrison, John Morrison, Alex Duncan, Catriona Duncan, Ailsa Morgan, Pete Pinnington.

**In Attendance:** Ian Hepburn (Development Manager), Belinda Hale (Administrator).

1. CM **welcomed** everyone to the Meeting.
2. There were **apologies** from Adam Dawson.
3. The **Minutes** of the Board Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April were signed by CM as a true record of the proceedings.
4. **Matters Arising.**
  - i. A final claim has been presented to HIE/GCA in the old format. A further claim for three months in advance has also been sent. We are awaiting new paperwork and instructions.
  - ii. Progress is being made re Bob Denovan's plot and electricity.
  - iii. The response to the Micro Hydro survey has been heavily in favour of progressing the project.
  - iv. No further community questionnaires have been received.
5. Two **items** were **declared** by IAH that were not on the Agenda. Salen Show and Jake Willis.
6. JM presented his **Finance Report** which had previously been circulated to the Directors. IAH is to write and thank the person who donated £250.00 to the Forest Schools and request that they tender a Gift Aid form. **Action IAH**
7. IAH presented the **Development Manager's Report** which had previously been circulated.
  - i. The Board unanimously approved IAH following up using our own Sitka for house construction. **Action IAH**
  - ii. IAH also to follow up negotiations for supply of timber to Robin Sedgewick for woodchip. **Action IAH**
  - iii. IAH requested Board's approval for moving forward with the proposed business project at Kengharair. It was agreed to offer a 25 year lease at £1500.00 per annum. **Action IAH**
  - iv. A new Woodmizer operator has been appointed. IAH suggested he does the Stress Grading Course in June as well as Woodmizer training. IAH is happy to manage this and should have the details complete by the end of the week. **Action IAH**
  - v. JM is happy to undergo UKWAS Accreditation but cannot attend the preliminary session tomorrow. IAH highlighted that there may be a need to purchase some mapping software.
  - vi. **Access.** AM and IAH have been working on an idea for a network of cycle paths based round the Haul Route and existing Forest Tracks. They have negotiated with Community Link Scotland who are prepared to find funding of £20,000.00 for a detailed feasibility study. The Board agreed that this project should be progressed further. **Action AM/IAH.** The proposed paths will include much of the archaeology in the area and Bill Patterson had sent a report on progress at Kildavie which BH will circulate to Directors. **Action BH**

vii. **Forest Crofts.** IAH had previously circulated a document laying out the problems that need to be resolved so that firm offers can be made to prospective crofters. It was agreed that they be offered the choice as to whether they decroft land for a house or simply to build the house as an improvement. If the de-croft option is taken the house will be subject to a burden that will ensure that the subsidy that the free land represents is incorporated into the burden such as to ensure that the company has a pre-emption on the purchase of the house at a discounted price that represents the discount percentage the free site created when it was included in the costing of the original build. A further condition will be imposed to ensure that the house will always be occupied as part of managing the croft, both the above are to prevent the house being sold other than as part of the croft. IAH has a meeting with Jamie McIntyre and more senior personnel of the Forestry Commission Scotland next week at which he hopes to finally clarify the position about the Forest Design Plan in relation to Forest Crofts. JM suggested we lay out exactly what we want and give them a deadline to approve it. If the meeting does not resolve the outstanding issues this option may be taken up, with the further sanction of an email to Roseanne Cunningham.

There are 10 current applications. It was agreed that one project might be more suitable as a business. **Action CM** to discuss this. One applicant is not currently resident within the required area so any offer to him would require an undertaking to move before a croft becomes available. The crofters are to have written confirmation that they have been accepted for a croft subject to the outstanding issues being resolved. **Action IAH**

8. There were no **Sub Comm Reports** that have not already been dealt with.

9. **Fundraising.** The Bingo Night was a great success and a further 100 Club Draw has been made. An application for a license for the Midsummer Disco has been sent and an ad put in Round and About. Posters are to be put up soon and it was agreed to charge £5.00 entry for adults and £2.00 for children. Volunteers are needed as stewards and to help with the bar. IAH and CM said they would help.

10. **Woodmizer.** Already dealt with.

11. There was no **Correspondence** that had not already been dealt with.

12. **Any Other Competent Business.** i. It was agreed that the Company should take a stand at the Salen Show in August for PR and Woodmizer demonstrations. **Action IAH**

ii. An offer had been received from Jake Willis to do some survey work. If the Gap Analysis tomorrow shows a requirement it could be useful. **Action IAH** to follow up.

13. The **next Meeting** will be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2010 at 7.30 pm in Dervaig Church Hall.

The Meeting was closed at 9.20 pm