

**Minutes of Board Meeting for
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd
Meeting held on Mon 18th May 2015**

Present: Colin Morrison, John Morrison, Ian Hepburn, Andy Mayo, Iain Thomson, John Addy, Neil Munro

Also Present: Malcolm Ward (Development manager)

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

2. There were no **apologies**.

3. The **minutes** of the Board Meeting held on **Monday 13th April** were **signed** by CM as a true record of the proceedings.

4. **Matters arising.**

- EGM notice of no change to be sent to OSCR **(MW)**
- Forest school brash and structure to be inspected **(JA/MW)**
- Sea Eagles: Dave Sexton (RSPB) has advised us that the nest has so far been successful.

5. **Items not on the agenda**

- Bank account changes
- SWMID visit

6. The **Finance Report** had been circulated by AM prior to the meeting. Balances are healthy and money continues to come in from Tilhill – this is earmarked for fencing and replanting.

7. The **Development Manager's Report** had been circulated by MW prior to the meeting. IAH and MW met with our forest managers to discuss revising our forest design plan. The SRDP will cover up to 75% of the cost of a plan review. They will prepare projections and a plan of operations for the next 10 to 15 years. They also discussed plans for refencing and replanting the site. The forest managers will arrange a visit to discuss design plans with our Crofters and with the board. NM has volunteered to be intermediary between the crofters and the board to improve lines of communication.

8. **Woodfuel and shed** A slight redesign is being made to improve manoeuvrability internally. IAH to contact supplier for update. We're still waiting on drying floor designs to be completed. **(MW)**

9. Housing We're awaiting information from the chief exec of West Highland Housing Assoc. CM to contact her.

10. Woodland Burials Mapping of site being prepared by Tilhill and we expect this back week beginning 25 May. On its return we'll arrange a meet with groundworks contractor.

11. Correspondence A member of the community has written to request a copy of minutes and pages from the recent AGM presentation. MW to write back and provide these.

12. AOCB

- Bank. AM has been contacted regarding our account at Clydesdale Bank to change from its current status of a "personal charity account" to a "business charity account". The board approved this.
- South West Mull and Iona Development has contacted CM to request a visit. The board would like to assist and CM to call and offer an invite.

13. The next Board Meeting will be held on **Monday 29 June 2015**. A provisional date was agreed for the July meeting of 27 July 2015.

Development Report May 2015

1. **Timber Harvesting West Ardhu** - harvesting operations are having to work round the white tailed sea eagles currently nesting. Dave Sexton of RSPB has advised the nest has been successful so far and they have hatched 2 chicks. Following current guidelines the area will now be sterilised for 5 years.
2. **Forest Design Plan/SRDP/Re-plant** – IAH and MW had a meeting with Steve Miller of Tilhill on 12 May to discuss revision of our FDP. The SRDP covers 75% of cost of a plan review. They'll knock up a cashflow projection for the next 10-15 years and a plan of operations to refence, deer control and replant. We discussed coverage and species and the benefits of mixed conifer and hardwood species planting on crofts/woodland burial site/forest school and other community priority sites. Steve will look at the viability of the Bellart area. He'll check alternative harvesting methods and funding availability for bog restoration as nothing available in SRDP. Steve will arrange a day to meet with our crofters to advise on their design plans and also to meet with the full board. We also asked him to consider costings of revising consultancy agreement to a full management one.
3. **Island Woodfuels**
 - a. We are still awaiting drawings for the drying floor. All other aspects can't move forward until these are received.
 - b. Delivery and resilience – There's been historic inconsistency with reliability and communication with the chipper. We're investigating the availability of a 7.5 ton vehicle with hi-ab and finishing costing and seeking funding for a chipping machine.
4. **Forest Crofts** – 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. IAH will contact the crofter to obtain details - still to be contacted. Meeting with Steve Miller as in 3 above.
5. **Micro Generation – Hydro West Ardhu** –Planning application for the access from the B8073 has been successful and we've received the documentation from Ronnie Neil.
6. **Housing Plots for sale** – We've now agreed with West Property to bring the West Ardhu plots to market. Some scrub clearance and groundwork to create entrances to plots may be required. MW to progress this.
7. **Woodland Burials**

We're waiting on maps returning from Tilhill before we can arrange an on-site meeting with James MacPhail to discuss groundworks and arrange quotation – also to include price to destump the site. Steve Miller advised the maps are complete and we should have them back shortly. JM and MW to progress.
8. **Rural Housing Scotland - Our Island Home –**
 - a. CM and IAH met with WHHA. WHHA are working towards a feasibility study including a ground condition survey for 5 affordable rental houses to be provided on 5 serviced plots provided by us on the PDA the houses would be subject to a local letting protocol approved by NWMCWC which would ensure that allocation of the houses was restricted to local people. If the feasibility study stacks up the houses would remain the property of WHHA. If the study is not acceptable to WHHA then the rights to it remain with us. Still awaiting info from WHHA
9. **RET and Motor homes** – Meeting with MICT and Alan Parker on the 7th April, MICT to pull together a position paper to agree with all stakeholders. Are we prepared to consider either direct or indirect provision of a service point (Potable

Water and Chemical Waste Disposal) and say 4 pitches in our/crofters woodlands.
No further change.

10. **Kildavie Bridge** – Materials are on site and I would like to complete this possibly week starting 25th May. Couple of volunteers required to be on site with MW.

MW 14/05/15

North West Mull Community Woodland Company Limited

Finance Report to 30th April 2015

Current Balance

Petty : £45.45
Bank : Clydesdale: £73,302.63 Triodos: £20,049.35 Total: £93,397.43

Significant movements since last report

Debits
1. Woodchip testing equipment £1,048.40
2. PAYE Quarterly payment £3,560.23

Credits
1. Tillhill harvesting payment £57,312.38

Upcoming Significant Movements

(excluding regular cost/credits)

1. Credit – Tillhill harvesting payment £26,129.00
2. SRDP Grant £23,260.90

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: £14,535.89
Significant Movements:
Sales credits : £8,373.80
Operational debits : £4,138.34
Charity Management Fees debit: £3,264.00
VAT Repayment (credit) £1,091.44

Andy Mayo