

**Minutes of Board Meeting for  
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd  
Meeting held at Dervaig Church Hall on  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

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

**Also Present:** Ian Hepburn (Development Manager) and Belinda Hale (Administrator and Company Secretary)

1. CM **welcomed** everyone to the Meeting.
2. There were **apologies** from Iain Thomson.
3. The **Minutes** of the Board Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013 were **signed** by CM as a true record of the proceedings.
4. **Matters Arising.** There has been no progress in getting a signed agreement from the Primary School about the parking area. The original path into Kildavie has been cleared and repaired by James MacPhail, many thanks to him for doing this. The dry stone wall on our boundary has been repaired by Matthew Reade, many thanks to him as well. JM has contacted Liam Griffin at Scottish Hydro to accept his offer to clear hanging trees and is now awaiting further details from him.
5. Two **items were declared** that were not already on the Agenda, i. Shed update, and ii. Vice Chairman.
6. The **Finance Report** had been circulated prior to the Meeting by AMay who has taken over as Treasurer. The Report showed recent and upcoming significant movements of money in and out of the Charity account. JM mentioned that the Office rent will be due at the end of June. There have been a few problems with the Clydesdale Bank account since we started increasing our use of internet banking and these need to be resolved quickly. **Action JM/AMay** to work with the bank to sort things out.
7. The **Development Manager's Report** had been circulated by IAH before the Meeting. IAH is working actively with SEPA to resolve the issues concerning the Micro Hydro but progress is quite slow.  
  
Steve Maker has requested the retention of some larch and sitka previously earmarked for felling to protect other retained trees on his croft. This would create a small risk of wind blow onto the haul road and main road so it was agreed that there would be a requirement on Steve to take on the risk and cost for any clearing needed as a result of keeping the trees. **Action IAH** to liaise with Tilhill and Steve about this.
8. **Micro Hydro** had already been covered in the previous Report.
9. **Kildavie Management.** Good progress has been made towards setting up a working subcommittee which includes JA representing the Board. Their first committee meeting is scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> July and a report of this will be provided in time for the next Board Meeting. The main focus of the group will be to make what has already been achieved more accessible with strimming and bracken clearance, providing good signage and paths.
10. **Firewood and Bulk Fuel Sales.** Tilhill have found a market for timber previously only suitable for firewood that can now be processed as pulp increasing its value. At the moment we produce c1200 tonnes of fuel wood per annum, 600 tonnes of which would be suitable for the new process. The remaining 600 tonnes pa is approximately equal to the expected demand for bulk fuel from local businesses. With the backlog of fuel timber we already have this gives a secure supply for around 6 years. **Action IAH** to arrange with Tilhill for the timber we retain to be stacked where and how we need it.

JM has collected a bag filler which will make the supply of bagged, domestic firewood much easier. He is intending to approach some other domestic firewood suppliers on the Island with a view to them purchasing poles from NWMCWC Ltd to process and sell on to their own retail customers. It was agreed that there will be a single issue brainstorming meeting to discuss how best to move forward with this on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July

at 7.30pm in Dervaig Church Hall.

**11. Scavenger Licences.** The Directors are happy with the draft licence circulated by email and wish to continue with the project. **Action IAH** to notify the Board when enough of Langamull has been finally cleared to make it practical to select the scavenging area. Once this has been agreed BH will circulate Members and put up notices locally so people can apply for a licence.

**12. Fence Repairs on Boundaries.** CM declared an interest as his father's croft has a boundary with our woodland. Many of the march fences are in a poor state and the Company cannot afford significant work on them at the moment. It is not clear at this stage how the new SRDP payments will work and whether they will apply to work already carried out so it is difficult to plan how best to meet the fencing liabilities that we have. It was decided that if neighbouring landowners, with prior agreement from NWMCWC Ltd, wish to re-fence now, the Company will pay back its share of the costs when the re-fencing project is carried out.

**13. Correspondence.** An email from a resident on Gometra requested that a cottage he has to let be advertised in our next Newsletter. It was agreed that this could set a precedent and that the Newsletter is not really big enough to carry external advertisements. **Action BH** to notify the resident of the decision. The Community Woodlands Association Annual Conference will take place in Sleat on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> August 2013. AMay and NM are interested in going and will liaise with IAH about this. IAH will attend and has been asked to accept a nomination as a Director of CWA. The Board are happy for him to accept this. There have been 14 requests for application packs for Croft 7, and 2 applications have already been received. The deadline for applications is 19<sup>th</sup> July.

**14. Any Other Competent Business. i. Shed update.** The feedback from Napier University concerning the designs for the secure compound has been very positive and they have effectively endorsed our proposals. It is felt that further input from them on this project could delay the start of building but it was agreed that their wish to contribute more research might be transferred to designs for the proposed shelter for the Woodland Burials **Action JM/IAH** to formulate exactly what we need Napier University to do. Building of the shed can now be progressed as soon as possible. **Action AMay** to contact Jamie Laurie re stress grading the timber for the shed. **Action IAH** to notify A&B Council of our intention to build, and advise Tilhill of the timber requirements.

**ii. Vice Chairman.** As CM is likely to have extra commitments over the next few months it was agreed that it would be a good idea to appoint a Vice Chairman. CM proposed JM and this was seconded by NM and unanimously accepted by the Board. It was further agreed that JM would take over as Acting Chairman for the next couple of months.

**15. The next Board Meeting** will be held on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July** 2013 at 7.30pm in Dervaig Church Hall. The Meeting after that will be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August.

The Meeting closed at 9.25pm.

1. **Timber Haul Road** –
  - a. Repairs carried out, there was an overrun of 1 day. Invoice not yet received but expected to be less than £11000.
2. **Fishnish Fixed Pier** –
  - a. Work on site commenced, Piling well under way and completion is now anticipated August. The delays have been caused by technical difficulties during the Piling operations
  - b. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Pier user group meeting has is to be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> July.
  - c. Volumes are tending to work against shared vessels with the Pennyghael operation but we could probably accommodate 2600 tonne vessels for our own pulp so we should be able to cut the double handling on pulp. In addition negotiations with Boyds should yield savings but alternative shippers are difficult to source as Boyds own the Corpach pier.
3. **Timber Harvesting** – Harvesting is continuing in Langamull north and the “tidy up” of the eastern block of Langamull North is due to start in 2-3 weeks.
4. **Timber Sales** – Third order received from the Bakery and delivered. Decision needed on future Fuelwood stocks
5. **Forest Crofts** – The vacant croft has been advertised and a large number of application packs have been sent out.
6. **Access Feasibility Study** – Existing Kildavie path has been re-instated (thanks to James MacPhail for doing the work) and the Kildavie subcommittee is looking to obtain funding for an additional access via the Haul Route hammerhead.
7. **HIE/FCS 5 year Review meeting**– Project for Woodland Burials submitted to HIE but they are unable to assist – will pursue via BIG lottery Investing in Ideas or Growing Community Assets. HIE would still like to look at a wood fuel project with us.
8. **Medium Term Income** - Woodland Burials – The final clearance of and management of the retention in 915 is now virtually complete. Site walked and preliminary location agreed but a survey to establish soil depth and condition is required preliminary costing for site surveys have been received. See above re funding for the initial survey
9. **Micro Generation – Hydro West Ardhu** - The connection offer has been received :-
  - a. Now confirmed that we will not have any restrictions on export of power generated.
  - b. CAR licence
    - i. SEPA - IAH attended a meeting in Dingwall last week to try and resolve the issue – we are still facing a restriction on water off take during October and November so that the flow level throughout that period never drops below good due to our abstraction of water this could reduce revenue by about £5000. Prior to the meeting the restriction was to be for the whole of October November and most of December.
    - ii. We will need to construct a fish pass at the weir just up from the B8073 and that will probably require consent from Bob Denovan and Graham Thomas unless it is still owned by Scottish Water. (please treat 9bii as confidential at this stage)
  - c. Further drawings have been requested by A&BC these are on hold until the SEPA issue is resolved.
10. **Kildavie** –2 meetings with the group of volunteers have now been held and the project is proceeding Separate minutes of the meetings will be provided during the board meeting.
11. **Rural Housing Association - Our Island Home** – Project to run a Housing design competition leading on to a build project. So far design brief complete and we are invited to provide a member for the judging panel probably three off island visits plus reading of all submissions for the 2 stage process. If the hunt for funding is successful our site would be one of those considered for construction.
12. **Steve Maker Croft 4** - Steve wants to retain some of the Larch and Sitka to the west of Langamull entrance as protection for the planting on the east side. If we leave the stand between the burn and the entrance the cost us would be minimal but the clear up cost if it turns out to unstable would be significant. My view is that subject to Tilhill advice, if we allow retention it should be at Steve's risk and cost for clear up.

IAH 20/06/13

## Finance Report to 20th June 2013

### Current Balance

Petty Cash : £6.17

Bank : £18,217.95 (including salaries due this week)

### Significant movements since last report

Debits

No significant debits

Credits

1. £871 VAT Repayment
2. £2275 Gift Aid Tax back from HMRC
3. £4,000 transferred from Trading company

### Upcoming Significant Movements

*(excluding regular staff and office costs)*

1. Debit £700 (approx) Micro Hydro Planning
2. Micro Hydro legal fees
3. Access works at West Ardhu for Micro Hydro

*It is worth noting that all costs associated with the Hydro can be paid for using the CARES loan*

### 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 : £730

Significant Movements

Debits

1. £4,000 transferred to Charity
2. £1,500 Firewood transportation costs

Credits

1. £5,500 Firewood sales

Andy Mayo