

**Minutes of Board Meeting for
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd
Meeting held on Monday 9th June 2014**

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

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

1. CM **welcomed** everyone to the Meeting.
2. There were **apologies** from John Morrison and Neil Munro.
3. The **Minutes** of the Board Meeting held on 13th May 2014 were **signed** by CM as a true record of the proceedings.
4. **Matters Arising.** Ronnie Neil is still awaiting some final information from Mott MacDonald prior to submitting the planning application for the Micro Hydro. **Action IAH** to chase.
5. **One item was declared** that was not on the Agenda: Valuation Report.
6. **Finance Report.** AM had circulated his report prior to the Meeting. Some late payments for wood chip and bulk timber had affected the Trading Company cash flow but this is now resolved.
7. **Development Report.** IAH had circulated his report prior to the Meeting. Invitations to tender for harvesting and transport at West Ardhru have been sent out. After discussions and site visits with RSPB Officer Dave Sexton, some additional retention has been agreed in Langamull South to protect the eagle nest. It has not been possible to find a 7.5 ton truck with crane to lease at a reasonable price so transport of domestic firewood and smaller deliveries of woodchip needs to be looked at again. AM and IAH had a meeting with West Highland Futures and it has been agreed that the woodchip for PCC Craignure will be put out to tender. This will give Island Woodfuels the opportunity to negotiate a fair rate over a fixed period rather than making ad hoc deliveries as happens at the moment.
8. **Woodfuel.** This has been covered under other headings.
9. **Planning.** IAH and Ronnie Neil had a useful meeting with the district and local planning officers for Argyll and Bute Council (A&B). Some helpful suggestions were made about the best areas for building plots. The sale of building plots has always been at the heart of financing the Micro Hydro and Affordable Housing so it was unanimously agreed that Ronnie Neil should be asked to move forward with some of these. It was also agreed that a letter supporting the application to build a dwelling on one of the Forest Crofts would be sent to A&B, and that similar assistance would be provided to other crofters if necessary. IT abstained from the discussion and vote as he is a Forest Croft tenant.
10. **Development Manager Recruitment.** By the closing date twelve applications had been received for the position. All the Directors participated in the first sift and a shortlist of three was drawn up. Interviews will take place on 20th June 2014. The interview panel will agree the format and questions etc for the interviews. **Action BH** to prepare a pack relevant to each interviewee for the panel.
11. **New Website.** The designer of the new website is making good progress and hopes to have it completed soon. The current website manager has been updated about progress.

12. Correspondence. CM has been contacted by Roc Sandford of Gometra, who is organising a meeting about housing in his area, to invite someone from NWMCWC Ltd to attend. **Action CM** to respond and try to attend.

13. Any Other Competent Business. As part of the Community Land Scotland survey about the effects of land purchased by the community, HIE paid for a District Valuer's report for each estate included. The value of NWMCWC Ltd land has been put at £1,000,000.00. At the time of purchase it was valued at £342,000.00.

14. The next Board Meeting will be held on **Monday 21st July 2014** at 7.30pm in Dervaig Church Hall. The one after is likely to be on 18th August 2014.

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Development Report June 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 and almost complete as far as sitka is concerned. All the Jap larch apart from the retention along the B8073 is still to fell. White Tail activity has been noted but minimal impact, agreement additional retention to protect the nest site has been agreed between ourselves RSPB and UPM Tilhill.
4. **Island Woodfuels**– New operation going well Andy Mayo's report will cover financials. Alan is now carrying out the woodchip deliveries. Future delivery strategy is still to resolve.
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. Survey now complete.
6. **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.
7. **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.
8. **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. It will be necessary to explore the working structure that we will adopt in working with the winning architects.

North West Mull Community Woodland Company Limited
Finance Report to 31st May 2014

Current Balance

Petty : £6.17

Bank : £15,298.20

Significant movements since last report

Debits

1. Initial Payment to auditors (2012-13 audit) £1,744.00
2. Short term loan to Trading Company £5,000.00
3. Dev Man Advertising (Oban Times) £813.38

Credits

1. SRDP Restructuring Grant £16,558.10

Upcoming Significant Movements

(excluding regular cost/credits)

1. Credit – £5,000.00 repayment of short term loan
2. Credit – £350.01 VAT Repayment

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: £1,892.45

Significant Movements:

Sales credits : £2,860.21

Operational debits : £6,287.09

Short term Loan : £5,000

Charity Management Fees debit: £3,264.00

Andy Mayo