

**Minutes of Board Meeting for  
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd  
Meeting held in Dervaig Church Hall on  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2013**

**Present:** John Morrison, John Addy, Colin Morrison, Andy Mayo and Iain Thomson

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

1. JM as Acting Chairman **welcomed** everyone to the Meeting.
2. No **apologies** had been received.
3. The **Minutes** of the Board Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2013 were **signed** by JM as a true record of the proceedings.
4. **Matters Arising.** IAH has sent a reminder letter to Steve Maker re the agreement about retained trees.  
IAH has had an informal meeting with the chair of the primary school parents group and she has contacted Argyll and Bute Council (A&B) to move forward with the car park planning issue. There has not been any reply from A&B re the Dervaig toilets **Action IAH** to chase.
5. Two **items** were **declared** that were not already on the **Agenda**: i. Communication, ii. CWA event next week.
6. The **Finance Report** had been circulated prior to the Meeting by AM. It was agreed that it is now time to start taking some income from Tilhill as previously agreed. **Action AM/IAH** to agree amount and move this forward.  
JM has had a meeting with Clydesdale Bank about access to the Charity account for internet banking. They prefer only one person to have full access rights with others having the ability to view the account and make routine payments. It was agreed that BH should have the full access with AM, JM and IAH having the limited level. **Action JM** to complete arranging this.  
It was noted by the Board that a Member continues to manage the deer in the woodlands with any profits from venison sales accruing to the Charity.
7. The **Development Manager's Report** had been circulated by IAH. A quotation has been received from James MacPhail to create the new path down to Kildavie. It was agreed that as provision of the path is such an important community access benefit the cost will be taken from Trading Company fuel wood sales until grant funding can be arranged. It was further agreed that it would not be necessary to put such a small project out to tender. The Seedcorn Fund will not contribute towards capital costs but IAH is looking for funding from other sources. There is already money promised from Adopt-a-Monument for signage of Kildavie with the possibility of more from the Eagle Fund.  
Negotiations with SEPA re the Micro Hydro are progressing and it appears that a fish chute across half of the burn will satisfy them. This will not reduce the water supply where it is taken off by local residents and may increase it.  
The final results for Our Island Home will be announced in February 2014. IAH is on the judging panel. IAH has had a meeting with A&B housing and it still looks as though this could be a good way to provide affordable rental housing at West Ardu.  
There is a pier user group meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September which IAH will attend. No reasons have been given for the delay in building the fixed pier at Fishnish.
8. **Allocation of Croft Seven.** At a meeting attended by five Directors an initial sift of the applicants for Croft Seven was carried out using the scoring matrix agreed with the Crofting Commission. The Directors commented on the high standard of the applications. It was decided at the meeting that the two highest scoring applications would be invited to attend an interview. The interviewing

panel will comprise CM, AM and JA with an independent observer present. A short list of three suitable independent people was drawn up and the first, Lorne Macleod, was emailed right away. (He responded by return and the panel are now in a position to move forward with arranging the interviews). Once a date has been set for the interviews all the applicants will be contacted and informed whether they will be interviewed or not. The Board agreed that they may wish to look again at the scoring parameters in the selection procedure before advertising any future crofts that come up for rent.

**9. Visit to Sawmill.** It had previously been agreed that a visit to the sawmill at Kilmallie would be arranged for sometime in September. It was agreed that a party of c20 would be ideal with Members being invited to come along. **Action IAH** to contact the mill and organise a date.

**10. Firewood.** A firewood processor has been ordered and will be collected in September. A second hand kindler has also been looked at and would be available fully serviced and with a three months warranty. It has been shown that there is a market for kindling so it was agreed that this machine should be bought too. Both items will be paid for from a bequest made to the Charity. It was agreed that it is necessary to secure the ongoing use of a tractor for the firewood operation and JM is reasonably optimistic that he has achieved this. It was further agreed that the subcommittee need to address issues concerning volunteering in the future when the business has increased sufficiently to employ someone. They will also look at the costs of delivery of domestic firewood. They will put together some proposals to present to the Board. JM will organise a work party to erect dry storage for processed firewood within the next fortnight.

**11. Scavenger Licences.** Four people have so far expressed an interest in buying a three months scavenger licence. This is expected to increase once the Autumn Newsletter is published. IAH has suggested an area of 4 hectares in Langamull North and it is hoped that final clearing by the harvesting contractors will be completed very soon. This will give the licences a potential start date of late September.

**12. Correspondence.** JM has replied to the letter from a local resident.

Community Land Scotland are considering making a short promotional film to put on their website and take to presentations. Everyone was in favour of supporting this idea and having NWMCWC Ltd featured in the film. **Action CM** to respond.

Clare Hannah from HIE has made contact re a Maximising Community Assets housing project with a view to getting us involved. It was agreed that the Company would like to both host an event and take part in any seminars. **Action IAH** to respond.

**13. Any Other Competent Business.** i. Communication. AM had received a suggestion about setting up workshops for local people to discuss current projects and future plans. It was agreed that the sawmill visit will provide a good opportunity for open discussion with Members and to see if there is a need for other sessions.

ii. The 'A Wood of our Own' function will take place next Tuesday in Dervaig Village Hall, facilitated by NWMCWC Ltd. BH is organising the catering with volunteers. JM will try to attend for at least part of the day and other Directors are aware that it would be good if they could come along too. The event is being jointly run by Community Woodlands Association and Forestry Commission Scotland to encourage community ownership of woodlands.

14. The next Board Meeting will be held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in Dervaig Church Hall. The one after that is likely to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

The Meeting closed at 9.50pm.

## Development Managers Report July/August 2013

1. **Timber Haul Road** –
  - a. No current issues.
2. **Fishnish Fixed Pier** –
  - a. Completion still expected early October.
  - b. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Pier user group meeting will now be held on 5<sup>th</sup> September.
  - c.
3. **Timber Harvesting** – The tidy up/ completion of Langamull North has now started and will take approx 4 weeks. In order to maintain production in Langamull South a second harvester has been brought to site on a short term basis from Brolley's operation at Scoor.
4. **Timber Sales** – A new pulp market has emerged for Lodgepole Pine and Sitka that was previously thought unsuitable for saw logs or pulp and that would have been destined for biomass. We held significant stocks of old deemed unusable Sitka and that has now been shipped with 3 loads being shipped during week commencing 29<sup>th</sup> July.
5. **Woodfuel** – Prices have been obtained for a log processor and a Kindla machine and final negotiations are under way.
6. **Forest Crofts** – The vacant croft has been advertised and nine completed valid applications have been received.
7. **Access Feasibility Study** – The Kildavie subcommittee is looking to obtain funding for an additional access via the Haul Route hammerhead, a route has been marked out and an estimate of cost is awaited from James MacPhail.
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. Have contacted BIG lottery, Growing Community Assets grant will not be applicable but Investing in Ideas and Awards for All may be possibilities
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 - SEPA - Progress – it now looks as though a simple stainless steel chute curved back to meet the vertical wall of the weir below the water level covering approx. half the weir width would suffice as a fish pass. Now awaiting draft design and confirmation.
  - 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** – Subject of a separate paper circulated in July but it looks as though we may expect significant assistance from A&BC if we proceed.
12. **Steve Maker Croft 4** - Letter + reminder sent to Steve re retention

## North West Mull Community Woodland Company Limited

### Finance Report to 19th August 2013

#### Current Balance

Petty : £6.17

Bank : £12,553.06

#### Significant movements since last report

*(excluding regular staff and office costs)*

Debits

1. £146 Deer Management Group annual subscription

#### 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

Approximate Current Balance: £1,200

Andy Mayo