

**Minutes of Board Meeting for
North West Mull Community woodland Company Ltd
Meeting held on Monday 22nd September 2014**

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

Also Present: Chris Liddell (Development Manager), Belinda Hale (Administrator and Company Secretary).

1. CM **welcomed** everyone to the Meeting and gave a special welcome to the new Development Manager Chris Liddell (CL).

2. There were **apologies** from Neil Munro and Iain Thomson.

3. The **Minutes** of the Board Meeting held on Monday 25th August 2015 were **signed** by CM as a true record of the proceedings.

4. **Matters Arising.** AM and IAH have checked the VAT rules concerning woodfuel and clarified who is entitled to the 5% domestic rate and who must pay 20%. **Action AM** to speak to a couple of our customers who may need to have their rate changed.

5. **3 items** were **declared** that were not on the Agenda: Retirement gift, Rural Parliament and Dervaig Toilets.

6. The **Finance Report** had been circulated by AM prior to the Meeting. The Charity finances are in a settled state at the moment and the Trading Company has good cash flow.

7. The **Development Report** had been circulated by IAH prior to the Meeting. It has been reported that the picnic benches near the Forest School have been damaged during harvesting. **Action JM** to check. The long term delivery strategy for woodfuel still needs to be resolved. **Action all Directors** to come up with a costed solution/strategy by the next Board Meeting. **AM** has offered to organise the movement of timber to the processing area for cut and split. CL would like to get more involved with the organisation of the woodfuel operation especially delivery schedules etc.

The excavation at Kildavie went well and the organisers would like to continue next year. **Action JA** to remind Ian Hill that he has promised an article and photos for the next Newsletter.

The housing subcommittee (IAH, CM and JM) and CL will have a meeting about Our Island Home on Thursday 9th October 2014 at 7.30pm in Creagan.

8. **Woodfuel.** It was agreed that the firewood prices and delivery charges were due for review. In future rounds will cost the same as cut and split and delivery areas 2 and 3 will have the same delivery charge of £10.00 with a minimum order of 2 cu m. **Action BH** to update spreadsheets and matrices. There is a supply of bagged sawdust suitable for animal bedding etc in the polytunnel. **Action BH** to put notice in window with a price of £2.40 incl. VAT.

9. **Planning.** The drawings for the housing plots have been sent to Argyll and Bute Council (A&B) for pre application consultation. The Micro Hydro plans should be ready for submission and the costs for the application can be reclaimed from the CARES loan.

10. **New Website.** Good progress is now being made. AM has seen the 2nd draft and given feedback, and the 3rd draft is expected very soon.

11. Woodland Burials. Although there are probably sufficient funds in the Charity account to cover the costs of the ground depth survey it was agreed that it is desirable to have a source of funding to follow this up with actual construction work for the project to move ahead. JM has offered to take the lead on the project and he, AM, IAH and CL will study everything carefully and formulate a plan as soon as possible. They will look at procuring outside funding but it is not the sort of project to attract grants.

12. Correspondence. Details have been received of a self-build initiative from the Scottish Government which may be helpful to the crofters.

13. Any Other Competent Business. Retirement Gift. The Directors agreed several months ago that IAH should be given 2 adjoining plots in the proposed Woodland Burial Ground in recognition of his excellent service as Development Manager. The decision was taken prior to his election as a Director but kept secret so he could be surprised at the Retirement Dinner.

Rural Parliament. A consultation by the Scottish Government will take place in Oban in November to look at creating a Rural Parliament. IAH and CM plan to attend. There will also be an information seeking visit to Mull on 6th November and NWMCWC Ltd will be one of the groups included in the tour.

Dervaig Toilets. IAH has chased A&B about this including contacting the Chief Executive. They have indicated that they plan to discuss the matter at a meeting in December.

14. The next Board Meeting will be held on **Monday 27th October** 2014 at 7.30pm in Dervaig Church Hall. The one after is likely to be held on 24th November.

The Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Development Report September 2014

1. **Timber Haul Road** – All major movements of timber across from Langamull have now been completed future movements will be restricted to fuelwood. Proposed that no further repair work is carried out to the Road until we complete the movement of fuel wood and that the repair is tied in with the ongoing activity in West Ardhu.
2. **Timber Harvesting Langamull** –The final measure of available fuel wood in Langamull South is complete and we are waiting for the results.
3. **Timber Harvesting West Ardhu** – harvesting commenced mid-July and is progressing well – no further water contamination with silt.
4. **Island Woodfuels**– New operation going well Andy Mayo's report will cover financials. Alan is now carrying out all the woodchip deliveries. Future delivery strategy for solid wood fuel is still to resolve including woodchip bulk bags
New tyres purchased and fitted for the 10 cu m trailer.
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.
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. **Housing Plots for sale** – surveys have been completed on the sites identified with and by A&BC and a pre consultation enquiry will be submitted this month. Followed by formal planning applications.
8. **Woodland Burials**
Detailed cost and cash flow forecasts now available – need to move forward with survey etc.
9. **Kildavie** – Excavation at Kildavie is completed for this year - archaeological consultants are keen to return next year.
Rural Housing Scotland - Our Island Home – IAH met with the winning architect Tom Morton of ARC design along with Jodi McLeod of Rural Housing Scotland 17/07/2014 to update them on the previous board discussions and our progress towards delivering the project. It was made clear that the project would be managed as two phases - infrastructure followed by development and that we would not necessarily use the same architect for both phases. There was a general discussion about the differing possibilities of managing the development and IAH made it clear we were against any form of urbanisation of the PDA i.e. Street lights blacktop and formal pedestrian footpaths and that we were looking for mixed development in terms of housing types etc.
We now need to pull together a working group to move the project forward but it would seem unlikely that we could get a start on site until this time next year. **No further progress this month.**

IAH 25/09/2014

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

Current Balance

Petty : £6.17

Bank : Clydesdale: £16,285.74 Triodos: £2,139.80 Total: £18,425.54

Significant movements since last report

Debits

1. New office IT equipment (chiefly for Chris) £1,148.78
2. Macphees balance of crofting legals £4,692.00
3. Crofting Fencing study (to be recovered from Crofters) £1,684.80

Credits

1. Crofting fencing study repayment £187.20

Upcoming Significant Movements

(excluding regular cost/credits)

1. Credit – VAT repayment £2,317.04
2. Credit - Crofting fencing study repayment £187.20
3. Credit – Back payments of Mgmt fee from Trade Co £3,600.00
4. Debit – Lanagmull North scraping (recoverable from Tillhill) £4,080.00
5. Debit – Office Furniture and equipment £369.97

Haul Route

In the coming months, there will be one further bill related to Servitude final payment to be paid to FCS (15000.00)

Trading Company

Current Balance: £2,527.48

Significant Movements:

Sales credits : £11,478.05

Operational debits : £6,804.48

Charity Management Fees debit: £3,264.00

Andy Mayo