

**Minutes of Board Meeting for  
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd  
Meeting held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

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

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

1. CM **welcomed** everyone to the Meeting.
2. There were **apologies** from John Addy.
3. The **Minutes** of the Board Meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2014 were **signed** by CM as a true record of the proceedings.
4. **Matters Arising.** AM has had some contact with customers re VAT and will continue to follow up. IAH and AM have put together some specifications and costings for delivery vehicles and should be ready to put forward a plan at the next Meeting. IAH and CL will bring up the matter of the damage and brash in the Forest School area when Iain Moody from Tilhill visits tomorrow.
5. **Four items** were **declared** that were not on the **Agenda**: i. Rural Parliament, ii. Halloween Party Prize, iii. Gometra, iv. CES AGM.
6. **Finance Report.** AM had circulated his Finance Report prior to the Meeting. Balances remain good and the Trading Company is now up to date with management fees to the Charity.
7. **Development Manager's Report.** CL had circulated his Report prior to the Meeting. There are ample firewood stocks remaining in Langamull. It has been suggested that the spruce needs to be used first if it is to be chipped. The UKWAS Audit went well and the action requests will be discussed with Iain Moody tomorrow. The areas that are covered by Protection of Ancient Woodlands (PAWS) need to be surveyed in the spring. **Action CL** to find a qualified person and get a quote. Argyll and Bute Council (A&B) have indicated that they now require separate planning applications for the Micro Hydro and access road despite having insisted last year that they be submitted as one. New plans for the fish weir will have to be submitted to SEPA as it now needs to be on the other side of the burn. Ronnie Neil has applied to A&B for planning permission for the two housing sites at Kengharair.
8. **Woodfuel.** Orders remain steady and an advertisement has been booked in November Round and About. There has been some disruption to firewood deliveries due to the bad weather but the volunteers plan to bring everything up to date next week.
9. **Housing.** The subcommittee had a meeting recently and made progress with planning the finance and application strategy. Further discussions will take place now the Board has been briefed and agreed with progress so far.
10. **Woodland Burials.** The subcommittee had a meeting and agreed it is time to move forward with this project. **Action CL** to get up to date quotes for a soil depth survey and bring results to next Board Meeting.
11. The **New Website** will be going live on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October. Email accounts may take up to two days to be up and running. **Action AM** to manage changeover.

**12. Branching Out.** Community Woodlands Association (CWA) has circulated details of a scheme to use woodlands to help people with mental health issues. It was agreed that although it seems to be a very good idea, more information is required before resources are committed. **Action CL** to contact Diane Oliver of CWA for more information about what would be involved.

**13. Correspondence.** An email had been received from a local resident concerning overzealous cutting of his birch trees by A&B workmen. Much of the brash and other debris has been dumped on NWMCWC Ltd land. The resident was concerned that we might think he had consented to this work and asked whether we required A&B to clear up. It was agreed that this was not necessary. **Action BH** to respond to resident.

**14. Any Other Competent Business.** i. **Rural Parliament:** No information has been received about the expected visit on 6<sup>th</sup> November. **Action CL** to contact Sian Scott at MICT and get more details. ii. **Halloween Party Prize:** NWMCWC Ltd has been asked to donate 1 cu m cut and split as a raffle prize and it was agreed that we should do so. iii. **Gometra:** CM attended a stakeholders meeting on Gometra as the owner wants to upgrade his rental accommodation and is seeking ways to do so including the possibility of involving community groups. iv. **CES AGM:** Directors were invited to put themselves forward for election to the Board of Community Energy Scotland but no-one is able to take this on at the moment.

The Directors were notified that Wendy Reid from DTAS will be visiting the Office on 24<sup>th</sup> November to give us more information about the Scottish Government Grant, they are invited to attend.

**15.** The **next Board Meeting** will be held on Monday **24<sup>th</sup> November** 2014 at 7.30pm in Dervaig Church Hall. The one after is likely to be held on **5<sup>th</sup> January 2015**. **Action BH** to circulate Agenda before Christmas break and include date for AGM as an item.

The Meeting closed at 8.50pm.

## Development Report October 2014

1. **Timber Haul Road** – All major movements of timber across from Langamull have now been completed future movements will be restricted to fuel wood. No further repair work will be carried out to the Road until we complete the movement of fuel wood and the repair will be 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. **UKWAS Audit** – Overall the outcome was good. Some problems were discovered on site and are being rectified. Meeting with Iain Moody should be held this week to check progress. The other significant Corrective Action Request was that a review of PAWS sites is now urgent. A competent botanist is required to inspect sites marked as Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites to assess how ecologically valuable they are and determine the future management of these sites. This needs to be done in the Spring.
5. **Island Woodfuels**– New operation continues to go well, Andy Mayo's report will cover financials. Future delivery strategy for solid wood fuel is still to resolve including woodchip bulk bags. Some customers have moved to regular standing order payments at their request.
6. **Forest Crofts** –Crofters meeting scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> March resulted in a request that we try to arrange some Technical input to facilitate the Crofters Forest Design Plans. **No further progress this month**
7. **Micro Generation – Hydro West Ardhu -**  
A&BC planners now want separate applications for the new public road access and the micro hydro site, contradicting what they said last year. They also want to include more land in the application to allow for deviations to the pipelines. Bruce and Neill continue to work on this.
8. **Housing Plots for sale** – Planning applications for the 2 West Ardhu plots and pre-application approval for the 4 Langamull lots have been paid for and will be submitted soon.
9. **Woodland Burials**  
Detailed cost and cash flow forecasts now available – need to move forward with survey etc. Subcommittee meeting to be discussed later.
10. **Kildavie** – Photos and dig report received from Ian Hill.
11. **Rural Housing Scotland - Our Island Home** – Subcommittee met on 09/10/14. This is an agenda item and a board decision will be needed on the construction of non-rental properties. Timetable potentially dependent on RHDP requirements, March 2015 is the critical date. Colin Morrison is discussing this with A&BC.

CL 24/10/2014

**North West Mull Community Woodland Company Limited**  
**Finance Report to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

**Current Balance**

Petty : £45.45

Bank : Clydesdale: £23,948.88 Triodos: £5,360.84 Total: £29,309.72

**Significant movements since last report**

Debits

1. Office Furniture & telephone £369.97
2. Langamull North scraping (recoverable from Tilhill) £4,080.00

Credits

1. Crofting fencing study repayment £374.40
2. Tilhill regular pmt (aug) and credit for scraping £7,200.00
3. Credit – VAT repayment £2,317.04

**Upcoming Significant Movements**

*(excluding regular cost/credits)*

1. Credit - Crofting fencing study repayment £374.40
2. Credit –Back payments of Mgmt fee from Trade Co £3,600.00
3. Debit – PAYE Quarterly payment £1,014.60
4. Debit – Office Furniture and equipment £369.97
5. Debit – Planning fees for six housing plots £5,278.94
6. Debit – Payment for lost grazing land £504.15
7. Debit – Tilhill Management Fee £900.00

**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: £2,552.05

Significant Movements:

Sales credits : £5,347.38

Operational debits : £2,058.81

Charity Management Fees debit: £3,264.00

Andy Mayo