

**Minutes of Board Meeting for
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd
Meeting held in Dervaig Church Hall on
Tuesday 17th December 2013**

Present: Colin Morrison, John Morrison, John Addy, Neil Munro, Iain Thomson, 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 no **apologies**.

3. The **Minutes** of the Board Meeting held on Monday 11th November were **signed** by CM as a true record of the proceedings. A second copy edited to show just the resolution in item 7 was signed by CM and JM to send to the hire purchase company.

4. **Matters Arising.** The fixed pier at Fishnish is now open.

5. No items were added to the Agenda.

6. The **Finance Report** had been circulated by AM prior to the Meeting and was accepted without further discussion.

7. The **Development Manager's Report** had been circulated by IAH prior to the Meeting. IAH is in discussions with FES to try and use their road repairing team while they are on the Island. It was noted that c36,000 tonnes of timber have been along the road in the last financial year.

Iain Morrison and Iain Thomson have both old and recent wind blow on their march fences. **Action IAH** to speak with Lindsay from Tilhill to see what can be done about clearance and fence repair.

SEPA are now happy with the drawings for the Micro Hydro.

IAH had attended the official opening of Fishnish Pier. It was noted that there will be big savings on transport costs increasing the profit on both saw logs and pulp wood. If the pier had been finished on time these savings could have been made much sooner.

8. **Woodfuel.** AM showed the Board the cash flow for the woodchip business which is already showing a small profit despite the transport costs which will go down as soon as we start using our own vehicles for deliveries. The firewood business is also doing very well at the moment. **Action AM/IAH** to prepare the tender for the PCC contract renewal.

The woodfuel subcommittee has chosen a site in West Ardhru for the buildings required for the increased woodfuel business. A draft plan for a woodchip preparation, drying floor and storage area building has been drawn up including provision for facilities for the Woodfuel Operator. Another shed will house the Woodmizer, firewood processor and kindling machine. **Action woodfuel subcommittee** to finalise plans and get quotes. It was noted that the facilities at Crannich will be available for at least the next six months, but that transport costs are higher to most customers from there.

An open afternoon is to be arranged on Saturday 18th January where existing and prospective customers can meet the Directors and Robin Sedgwick. A full page advertisement will be put in Round and About's January edition **Action BH**.

There have been two applications for the Woodfuel Operator post and it was agreed that a closing date would be set for 16th January 2014. **Action BH** to notify applicants and enquirers of the closing date. It was agreed that the vacancy ad should be put in the January edition of Round and

About with the closing date included.

9. Date for AGM. After a discussion about the likely date for the Annual Accounts to be completed by Clements, it was agreed that the AGM date should be provisionally set for Tuesday 25th March 2014 at 7.30pm in Dervaig Village Hall. **Action AM** to check availability.

10. Wind Blow. The many gales recently have resulted in a lot of windblown trees. The Directors will continue to monitor the situation and arrange volunteer work parties to keep paths clear as necessary.

11. Correspondence. Notification has been received that a planning application for a dwelling has been lodged by Iain Thomson, the tenant of Croft Five.

The surveyor for NWMCWC Ltd's prospective building plots has made a thorough examination and measured the plots. A couple of the sites have been revised slightly from the original draft plan. A local resident has expressed concern that one of the building plots is c30 metres from his boundary but it was agreed that it was for the Planning Department to deal with objections rather than ourselves. **Action IAH** to move the outline planning applications forward.

12. There was no other competent business,

13. The **next Board Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday 21st January 2014**. The one after is likely to be on Tuesday 18th February 2014.

The Meeting closed at 9.50pm.

1. **Timber Haul Road** – Now requires further work in places – Grader and roller due on Mull for FES work and we'll try to utilise whilst on island.
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 saw logs as long as any co-product i.e. bark, slabs etc was incinerated.
3. **Fishnish Fixed Pier** – Completion expected 19th December when to official opening takes place, currently we are stacking on the new pier.
4. **Timber Harvesting** –The tidy up/ completion of Langamull North is in Progress all felling in the eastern area is complete the western section will take approx another 3 weeks.
5. **Crannich Purchase** – purchase now complete and deliveries are being made. All woodchip and fuel wood sales will be branded as “Island Woodfuels” and a new website “*islandwoodfuels.com*” has been created. A company Island Woodfuels Ltd has been purchased to protect the name but will remain dormant at the moment. The additional handling equipment required will be delivered w/c 16th December.
6. **Forest Crofts** – The tenant for the vacant croft has been chosen and the registration process started.
7. **Access Feasibility Study** – An order for the construction of the new path to Kildavie has been issued to 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. Feedback from the BIG lottery also suggests that Investing in Ideas and Awards for All may not 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 - Revised design and details of the Nappe i.e. fish pass have been submitted to SEPA and accepted subject to a couple of minor changes.
 - c. Further drawings have been requested by A&BC these are on hold until the SEPA issue is resolved.
10. **Kildavie** –An order has been placed for the interpretive signs and funding applications made. Funding totalling £1775 has been received.
11. **Rural Housing Association - Our Island Home** – The short list of entries (5) was compiled on the 28th of November and includes a local architectural practice. The final decision will be announced at the Rural Housing Scotland conference in February.

IAH 11/12/2013

Finance Report to 30th November 2013

Current Balance

Petty Cash : £6.17 Bank : £18,690

Significant movements since last report

Credits

1. One hundred club - £456
2. Archeology Scotland - £1,500
3. Tillhill monthly deferred payment - £3,000
4. Highland Game - £520.23

Upcoming Significant Movements

(excluding regular staff and office costs and the Hydro)

Debits

1. Annual Insurance - £1,214.13
2. Deposit on tractor, trailer and Loadall - £5,990
3. Kildavie Signage - £750 (approx)
4. VAT on tractor, trailer and Loadall - £11,980.00

Credits

1. HMRC VAT repayment - £2363.87 (wood processor and Kindler)
2. Tillhill monthly deferred payment - £3,000
3. Island Woodfuels - £3,264

Haul Route

In the coming months, there is a final Servitude final payment to be made to FCS (£15,000).

Trading Company

Current Balance:£6,149,19

Significant Movements:

1. Transportation Debit : £1926
2. Woodmizer Operations Credit : £1194.30
3. Woodfuel (bulk and cut and split) Credit: £3,182.25

Andy Mayo