

**Minutes of Board Meeting for  
NORTH WEST MULL COMMUNITY WOODLAND COMPANY LIMITED**

**Meeting held at Dervaig Church Hall at 7:30pm**

**On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2009**

**Present:** Colin Morrison, John Morrison, Peter Pinnington, Ailsa Morgan, Adam Dawson, Chris Baker.

**In attendance:** Ian Hepburn (Development Manager), Belinda Hale (Administrator).

- 1. Welcome.** CM welcomed Belinda Hale as the new Administrator.
- 2. Apologies.** Tony Proud.
- 3. Minutes** of 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009 approved as a true record and signed by CM.
- 4. Matters Arising.**

Cycle paths. It was agreed that Euan Baxter should be invited to the next meeting of the AAR subcommittee. **ACTION AM.**

CWA Conference. CM and AD attended and made useful contacts.

Oban Times. Piece on Forest Schools has appeared but IAH says there will be a bigger article in December. Oban times have promised a draft prior to publication which is to be chased up. **ACTION IAH**

Bonfire night was an excellent evening but disappointing financially.

Forest Management Plan. IAH suggested that the subcommittee should have a full day agenda agreed before John Little is invited so his fee is well spent. **ACTION FOREST MANAGEMENT SUBCOM.** It will be possible to claim from the training budget for his visit. IAH and Forest Management subcommittee to follow up. IAH to explore the possibility of obtaining external funding to cover John Little's costs as a trainer. **ACTION IAH**

**5. Items not on the Agenda.**

AD has attended a Deer Management course and highlighted the need for ongoing monitoring. There will need to be a census prior to a possible cull and fencing of some areas. JM and IAH attended a two day Deer management course in Knoydart in May this year and part of this course included monitoring deer population. A Deer Management subcommittee comprising IAH, AD and JM was set up. IAH and JM will meet in early December and agree the first stages of the deer management plan and report in New Year. If needed AD will obtain advice from FES on carrying out deer population monitoring. **ACTION JM/IAH**

Tree o Clock. The Board agreed that IAH should order the trees from Taynuilt trees whether or not a grant is available. BH to continue to search for funding. AD has obtained 100 guards and suggested stakes are made on Woodmizer, CM to ask MR about this. **ACTION CM.** IAH will contact schools to invite the children to participate in the event on 5<sup>th</sup> December. **ACTION IAH**

**6. Finance Report.**

JM had circulated his report prior to the meeting. A grant from CES has covered the costs of the Public meeting for the turbine project. The year end figures are nearly finalised and will be formally presented for approval at the December meeting. Clydesdale Bank has put on some charges which should not be applied to a charity. JM negotiating to get them removed. HIE documents sent for audit have been returned with no problems reported.

## **7. Development Manager's Report (attached)**

IAH showed maps to elucidate the problems of access to the haul route.

Several people have shown an interest in the Forest Crofts. IAH/BH to send reminder about the closing date. **ACTION IAH/BH.**

There has been interest in leasing out areas of birch woodlands for productive management. IAH to check insurance implications about safety policies being followed on leased land and forest crofts. **ACTION IAH.**

IAH to see John Addy about clearing West Ardhu dun. IAH to check liability for commercial rates for trading Company wood storage building. **ACTION IAH**

## **8. Subcommittees.**

Access, Amenity and Recreation have circulated a report. AM to follow up funding. **ACTION AM.**

Woodfuel report circulated. More logs need to be cut and split for distribution to older people, PP to organise. **ACTION PP**

Each subcommittee was asked to look at training needs in their area as there may be more grant funding available. IAH will use the consolidated requirements to discuss funding for training via the Argyll and Bute LEADER project. **ACTION IAH**

## **9. Rough Shooting.**

JM has been contacted by a local man about shooting woodcock in the forest. Further research and discussion needed before a policy decision can be made. Dave Sexton (RSPB) to be asked to advise by JM. **ACTION JM**

**10. Business Plan Review Meeting** will take place on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2009 at 7:30 at Creagan.

**11. Correspondence.** Mull Museum suggest a link from our website to theirs, this was agreed BH to contact. **ACTION BH.** The Directors unanimously agreed to ratify the Declaration for Trading Company Tax Return signed by Michelle Cowe before she left.

**12. Any other business.** It was agreed that Dr Bill Patterson should be invited to give a 20 minute talk about the archaeology at Kildavie at the beginning of the next meeting. IAH to contact. **ACTION IAH.** AD requested some timber from the Trading Company to experiment with some prototypes for items to sell such as windproof fencing etc. This was agreed. **ACTION AD/PP/CM.**

**13. Date and time of next meeting.** Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30pm in Dervaig Church Hall. Date of AGM to be put on next agenda.

**14. Meeting closed** at 9:30pm.