

**Minutes of Board Meeting for  
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd  
Meeting held on Mon 22 February 2016**

**Present:** Colin Morrison, John Morrison, Iain Thomson, John Addy, Ian Hepburn

**Also Present:** Malcolm Ward (Development manager), Louise Fellows (Administrator)

**1. CM welcomed** everyone to the meeting

**2.** There were **apologies** from Andy Mayo.

**3.** The **minutes** of the Board Meeting held on **Monday 18 January 2016** were **signed** by CM as a true record of the proceedings.

**4.** There were no **matters arising**.

**5. Items not on the agenda**

- Groundworks invoice
- Track to croft 6
- Recycling area
- Path clearance

**6.** The **Finance Report** was circulated by AM before the meeting. January was a particularly quiet month for the charity, the balance remains healthy with a small amount coming in from Tillhill / BSW for timber. From the Development manager's report more should be on the way shortly

**7.** The **Development Manager's Report** had been circulated by MW prior to the meeting.

- **Forest management:**
  - Approximately 1560 tonnes of sawlog (at the original price) has been exported since early January from West Ardhu – this equates to around £38000 before vat. Another boat is due on Wednesday 24 February to export 700 tonnes
- **Housing:**
  - A formal offer has been received for plot 2 West Ardhu. The board have agreed to allow the purchaser time to raise finance for the second plot. Topographical survey has been completed for the Langamull plots and should allow completion of the planning process. IAH to attend RHS conference on 25 February.
- **Island Woodfuels:**
  - No progress on planning application for the woodshed. 2 neighbours have noted objection to the project and a note of concern has been made by Historic Scotland. Building control wish further fire control measures within the building – the most cost effective option is a blockwork wall to 2.5m and intumescent paint above. MW attending a meeting at Mull PCC to discuss issues with the biomass boiler 24 February.
- **Micro Hydro:**
  - IAH and MW visited Kilfinan Community Forest to discuss and view their Hydro scheme. A wayleave has been agreed with SSE Hydro for access to install LV and HV cabling when necessary.
- **Toilets:**
  - No answer from A&BC as yet on the response from the OLI area committee meeting on 10 February.
- **Woodmizer:**

- The mill is to be serviced in March. The company working on behalf of the Ulva Ferry pontoon project have been in touch asking if we could supply sawn-timber for screening a storage tank.
- **Crofts:**
  - One plan remains outstanding.
- **Eagles:**
  - CM and MW met with Dave Sexton and Jan Dunlop on 4 February to discuss details of our involvement in the Eagle partnership this year.

## 8. Micro-Hydro

- MW gave a brief presentation updating the Hydro project so far and on future decisions to be made.
  - Following the meeting with Kilfinan it was thought the best use of money would be to prepare with the basics and accepting the proposal from Mott MacDonald. The board agreed this was the best option. JA felt it would be worth building certain aspects ourselves e.g. the Powerhouse. **MW to formally accept offer with MMD.**
  - CARES loan: IAH advised that the loan can be topped up but it isn't discountable – the top up must be paid back even if the project is unsuccessful. The board agreed it was worth asking for further assistance. **MW to investigate with L.E.S.**
  - There are still 2 items outstanding. The lease agreement with Torloisk for the uptake and confirming the design of the weir/fish-ladder below the tailrace with SEPA. **MW to contact Twindeer Law to finalise the lease and Mott MacDonald on the weir design.** The board agreed to a degree of flexibility on the terms to move the project forward if necessary.

## 9. Forest design plan

- Consideration is being given to finalising the design plan review. CM and JA expressed concerns over the current lack of information on options. The board agreed to hold a separate meeting to discuss prior to making further contact with third parties. An **initial meeting** to gather questions requiring further info prior to the main discussion to be held **7 March at 10am** and the main discussion on **21 March 7.30pm.**

## 10. Woodland burial

- MW advised current planning response. CM noted concerns with zoning and that we should still apply for planning permission. IAH suggested that we arrange a meeting with district planning officer and advise of our intentions, the shortage of lairs on Mull and Argyll as a whole and the betterment of the landscape in the area. If the application is turned down an appeal can be submitted and this would go to a committee for approval. JM to attend a seminar on Woodland Burials run by Community Woodland Association at Aigas Community Forest on 5 March.

## 11. Eaglewatch

- CM and MW met Dave Sexton and Jan Dunlop on 4 February to discuss our role in the Eaglewatch partnership and viewing facility for 2016. RSPB and FCS are employing seasonal rangers to assist with both our hide and the facility at Tiroran. We will need to have volunteers to assist locally. A temporary shelter/hide will require building and IT has offered assistance. Trip bookings will continue to be through the Craignure office. Board recommend a note to all members to check for interest in running the hide. Any financial return should be ring-fenced with money going to e.g. an education bursary/fund.

## 12. There was no Correspondence

### 13. Any other competent business

- **Groundworks invoice**
  - The balance of the shed groundworks invoice is to be paid and the board recommended that it be clarified how much work remained to be invoiced and when work would be completed. MW to follow up.
- **Track to croft 6**
  - Following the siting of a track to croft 6 by the tenant MW to write to the tenant and confirm they're in discussions with A&BC Planning and Roads and have appropriate documentation.
- **Recycling**
  - JM raised the issue of the loss of recycling facilities in the village. He suggested we contact A&BC to offer an area of land upon which another facility can be sited. Others felt there may not be much interest but we should offer. **MW to email Stuart McCracken at A&BC.**
- **Path clearance**
  - Following a number of requests from the community to clear brash from the "dog walking path" in West Ardhru to allow it to be more accessible, a work party is to be organised.

**14. Date of next meeting:** 28 March 2016