

**- Minutes of Board Meeting for
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd
Meeting held on Monday 22nd February, 2021 @ 4.30pm via Zoom**

Present: Colin Morrison (**CM**), Tricia Evans (**TE**), Pippa Gatty (**PG**) Wendy Reid (**WR**) Jean Lanteri Laura (**JLL**) Andrew Primrose (**AP**) Jo Prior (**JP**) Tracy Mayo (**TM**)

Apologies:

Also Present: Helen Murray **HM** (minutes) James Cameron (**JC**)

1. Welcome - CM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

3. Matters Arising:

SSEN Mull/Coll Marine Cable replacement

Burial Site

Plots for Sale

DTAS Code of Conduct

4. Minutes of Board meetings 11th & 24th January, 2021 – all had read, no questions so approved and signed off.

5. Finance – JC sent an update prior to the meeting, including Charity mgt accounts. **JC** reiterated that any Director can contact him to answer questions etc. It was agreed to organise a specific finance overview meeting within the next fortnight. **HM** to collate questions and send to **JC** prior to meeting.

There is cash in the bank but a lot is allocated to projects, need to find a more meaningful way to produce monthly cashflows, which is in hand. Clements are working on the 2019/2020 accounts at the moment, have made various requests for information which has been provided, with the exception of **CM's** report. Trade Co – mgt accounts to follow shortly. The wood processor grant – still with **JC** about how we can claim.

JC left the meeting

6. Ulva – WR circulated her update prior to the meeting – all had read.

Savills have now visited for the valuation report required by the Ecology Building Society as part of the mortgage application process.

Ulva House is progressing, design team appointed, evaluation team appointed, public consultation arranged.

Fencing – contractors on Ulva, starting on the line to Gometra. Good progress made. Once work is completed we can submit an AECS claim. **AP** asked if there is a fencing plan, yes and Board have access.

Have placed orders for the electric bikes and vehicles. Looking at bike lockers that are solar powered & self charging.

Boathouse – new tenants arrive at the weekend, will go into isolation at Craigaig.

No other questions or updates.

7. Woodfuels - There have been various meetings to discuss the way forward. Board have approved **CM** to speak to an ex-director who expressed an interest in helping as well as both members of staff.

8. Replant – TE sent a brief update prior to the meeting. Sylvaculture have been sent maps and the FDP etc, and our Tilhill contact. They are working on securing the grant funding, will post to **TE** so sign.

The Woodland Trust have offered us over 14000 cell grown trees, which when added to our regen should account for about half of our requirement. Dervaig tree nursery now set up. **CM** mentioned reseeded trees – **PG** has been advised if they are pulled up early and grown on, they can be successful. **TE** will bring up at the replant meeting.

Groundworks will need to be tendered, groundworks mean mounding and prepared for planting.

Replant meeting on Monday 1/3 – will reissue invite round the membership. **TM** – maybe get the high school pupils involved in replanting, maybe even families and other groups, other concurrent activities etc.

9. Correspondence - None not raised elsewhere

10.

SSEN Mull/Coll Marine Cable replacement – **HM** circulated a draft lease to the Board prior to the meeting, with recommendations on fees we can request. All concurred with the proposed increases. **HM** to go back to SSEN via Savills **TE** – if it coincides with replant timings, will they be aware? **HM** yes it will all be written in the contract re gate shutting etc. **TM** – is it up to us to tell the other affected parties? No, it's up to them and **PG/JLL** are also affected and confirmed that they are being communicated with. We are happy to share information on public consultation but need to make sure it comes from them and branded SSEN. **HM** pointed out area of suggested compound and advised that our rep at Savills does want to meet with us and walk the full area of the proposed access/works before anything is signed. **CM** – have any archaeology surveys been carried out on the main beach site – **PG** advise they have carried out various surveys of land, wildlife and archaeology. SSEN are also now looking at the Ulva/Mull marine cable and will do a drone survey early March before advising further.

Burial Site – this was raised at the AGM. **CM** need to look elsewhere in the woods to see if there is another suitable area. The previous site is no longer suitable as the new SEPA regs say the soil depth is not deep enough. **TM** – might there be any financial help to identify somewhere? **PG** – do we have any soil depth maps? **CM** have to consider depth, accessibility, distance from watercourse etc. Is anyone wanting to volunteer to look for a site? **JLL** will look for a suitably sized area. **AP** happy to assist. **WR** Maybe a good idea to go out to DTAS members if any of them have experience of this, CWA also.

Plots for Sale – **PG** – we have had and accepted an offer on the 2 plots at West Ardhu, to include some additional land. Sale is with our lawyer to progress. Estate agents have asked if we have other plots – there are some at Langamull with lapsed planning – **PG** has a list of plots that she will circulate to the Board. **CM** – need to be sensitive to selling off plots given the situation with affordable housing on Mull. Prompted discussion about affordable housing, situation on Mull, housing need etc. **CM** still in discussions re our affordable housing plot. **WR** should we have a housing strategy session – land on Ulva and Woodlands – create a strategy that we will pursue over say 5 years – get an external facilitator from RHF?

DTAS Code of Conduct – been circulated amongst Board. Staff handbook also has a full grievance procedure – all should familiarise themselves. Need to have a policy for volunteers, lines of communication etc. **HM** to find information and circulate as a starting point.

10. AOB

COP26 – United Nations climate change Glasgow Nov 2020 – **AP/JLL/PG** – 2 week conference, lots of global focus. DTAS might have a stand in the Green area, looking for input from various trusts on a number of themes, including E transport. Would we like to be involved? **TE** – maybe join up with other organisations on Mull? **AP** – would be an excellent showcase, help to raise the profile/create recognition of community trusts role in reducing climate change. Board agree we should continue to be involved, also contact MICT and SWMID to see if they want to be included.

Supporting the communities app – **TM** – intending to put in an application to this. Had various conversations about forest school workshops and so on. Will send it round before submitting.

Fraud – **TP** – for Board information, just to remind everyone that fraud is increasing, especially amongst elderly. There is a police led programme in Oban that will hopefully happen on Mull. **WR** – need to be doubly careful when paying new invoices – **HM** does confirm bank details prior to payment.

Community Coffee morning – will use the NWMCW Zoom account to start these off, **TM** to arrange.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm – next meeting will be Tuesday 23rd March at 7pm via Zoom.