

**- Minutes of Board Meeting for
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd
Meeting held on Monday 17th May 2021 @ 7.30pm via Zoom.**

Present: Colin Morrison (**CM**), Tricia Evans (**TE**), Pippa Gatty (**PG**) Wendy Reid (**WR**) Andrew Primrose (**AP**) Jo Prior (**JP**) Liz Peel (**LP**) Tracy Mayo (**TM**)

Apologies: Tricia Evans (**TE**)

Also Present: Helen Murray **HM** (minutes)

1. Welcome - CM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies – None

3. Matters Arising:

Ulva ferry insurance & crossing costs – the ferry rent is due in August, and the annual insurance invoice has been received. Re crossing costs, they have requested that all consultants etc pay for their crossing and reclaim on expenses, rather than them having to invoice us. For the housing renovations, **WR** is discussing with the ferry operator the arrangements/costs for taking TSL over. Still to be negotiated but the costs will have to be covered by NWMCWC as these costs were taken out of the TSL contract to save costs. **WR** will report back once negotiations start. **TM** offered to be involved in the negotiation. **AP** concerned over the potential cost of this as it's a year-round year long contract and will be a considerable cost to us. **CM** critical now that we get some fundraising started to cover items like this.

Rebrand – AP – we were successful in our application to Bold, a rebranding company. If we can push the date as far as possible, a rebrand might be very helpful, positively engage the community etc. JC has advised that we cannot commit to anything unless we fully understand the cost implications and how these would be managed. **AP** seeking the ok to continue discussions to understand our commitment and what, if any costs are involved. Board ok as long as we do not commit to anything without further discussion.

Community Engagement/PR/website – PR – TM advises there are a few articles going into Round and About regarding Ulva, garden etc. **Website – PG** - roll this into the rebrand project in July rather than taking on now. **WR** – some money in the pot for the Storax Ulbha website – decisions still to be made on what this will look like etc. good change to tie it all together.

Dervaig Toilet – HM to chase planning as submitted in Dec 2020. **CM** has spoken to some of the near neighbours, and they are supportive of the project but have some concerns re parking. **TM** drafting an application for funding.

Boathouse/21st June/Sheilas TM – will speak to Boathouse about an activity sheet for children to be in BH and Sheila's. **WR** – we are recruiting an Ed & Marketing officer so tie all the ideas for activities and events with them. **TM** will do something in the interim until this post is filled.

Co-op community fund – TM to send link round the Board to see if we can think of a project – maybe in Ulva garden.

4. Minutes of Board meetings 23rd March 2021 – all had read, no questions so approved and signed off. **CM** has an ongoing action re the stalker. **CM** has fixed the Langamull cattle grid. Peatbog an ongoing action.

5. Finance –meeting arranged for Monday 24th May, with James Cameron. **AP & TM** have had a meeting with JC. Have a better understanding of the risks and issues.. New plan has now gone to Scottish Forestry. They have 28 days to raise any queries.

6. Ulva – LP – update on SU project. Have recruited an administrator who starts beg June. Interpretation tender has gone out again – hope to be able to contract someone soon. Film maker has been on Ulva, is editing all his footage now. Planning permission for Ulva House now submitted, claim for the costs submitted. Claims to go into NCHF as soon as contract signed, can also submit a claim to NHLF (15% of spend to date) at beg of June.

CM – can we draft a letter to planning to explain the urgency – **LP** to draft. **LP** happy to go over detail of the SU project finances with **AP/TM**. Broad outline design plan for the garden agreed with the volunteers today. Will help in looking for further funding. **LP** left the meeting.

WR – TSL to start work on 1 & 2 Bracadale and the Manse on 31st may. These will be finished and ready for our tenants to move out of 3 Bracadale, Ferryhouse & Fisherman's and into them by 22nd November. Johnny Bell is working on the securities paperwork. TSL will have 4 weekly site meetings for the QS to sign off and TSL will then submit an invoice for a claim submission to RHF. Once claim money received, the invoice can be paid by us – must be paid within 14 days – this is non-negotiable, but JC wants to discuss this further with WR and Ronnie.

FLAG app #2 – **WR** hoping to time going out to tender next week – for H&S reasons the work will close the pier for the length of the build process – potentially 14 weeks. Will have to speak to the fishermen who use it as this will have a huge impact on them landing a catch. Will have to find a workable/agreeable solution asap. **AP** reminded Board that JC has advised us not to agree to sign the Flag application agreement until the Triodos loan for SU is in place. The funding has to be claimed by the end of 2021. Need to discuss at the finance meeting.

WR has sent out 8 information packs for the Oyster Farm.

Anne Cleave has expressed an interest in becoming a Board member – **AP** to have a chat with her.

7. Woodfuels – Stewart has resigned as he has taken a full-time job. **AP/TM** spoke to **JC** about the Trade Co. and have floated various ideas – AP will pursue and bring to the Board soon. **AP** to meet with **CM** and Andy Mayo to discuss. Orders are all up-to date. **AP** to meet with Paul to discuss impact of Stewart leaving, lone working etc.

8. Replant – **PG** Treestory have submitted the renewal grant application. There are no extensions available. Scot Forestry are experiencing delays due to staffing issues. They have 28 days to raise any issues with the submitted plan. We have a stock of trees – need to get these into the ground. **PG** will email Treestory to ask if we are able to do this now. They hope everything will be in place to allow an autumn replant, they will produce maps and a scoping document for us to issue to members & neighbours – they have 28 days to respond. **CM** – have Treestory spoken to Tilhill re harvesting/replant – **TE** was going to speak to them – **PG** will contact him to find out if it's been discussed and considered. **TM** we need to understand if it's been considered so we can understand how we might fund the replant. **PG** cannot stress enough how important this is and that it must be the company's top priority. **AP** must make JC aware of the full details of the situation, costs, legal obligation etc. **AP** would like a meeting with Treestory and **JC/PG**.

9. Correspondence

CM still to speak to neighbour re fencing, but the issue has been clarified and **PG** will email them to keep him updated.

10. AOB

- Bracken statement approved and will go into June Round and About.
- Plots – CF to next meeting

Meeting closed at 9.30pm – next meeting will be the finance meeting 24th May, at 7.30pm.