

**Minutes of Board Meeting for
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd
Meeting held on Monday 8th April, 2019 @ 7.30pm**

Present: Colin Morrison (**CM**), Belinda Hale (**BH**), Pippa Gatty (**PG**) Andy Mayo (**AM**) Craig Whittaker (**CW**), Jean Lanteri Laura (**JLL**), Rhuri Munro (**RM**) Ian Hepburn (**IH**)

Also Present: Helen Murray (minutes)

1. CJM welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Apologies: Iain Thompson (**IT**) John Addy (**JA**)

3. The minutes of the Board Meeting held on 4th March, 2019 were signed by **CJM** as a true record of the proceedings.

CF actions – **CM/AM/IH** to go to inspect plots for sale as they need to be laid out , maybe some low level of landscaping to make them more “attractive” . **CM** Langamull dumped car

4. Matters arising: None not already raised/below

5. Finance Report – **AM** circulated a report for March prior to the meeting. Points of note are the payments out for the fencing and piers works and Ulva housing study, but can claim some of this back. Need to claim Ulva Dev Mgr. salary. Money, as always, is tight. Trade Co slightly down as some chipping payments have gone out.

6. Woodshed:

Action **CM** to chase electrician about electrics, need to run cables – **AM** may be able to help

RM requested an update – **CM** – to do is fireproof paint, water tanks, generator and road to be levelled. **CM** to speak to contractor about tanks.

7. Ulva Dev Manager

CM – **Ben (BS)** is leaving us, by mutual consent. Board discussed the situation. **CM** to tell SLF and HIE.

Report – **BS** circulated prior to the meeting – the info below is a summary – read out by **CM**

Westminster – event went well, lots of positive feedback.

Ulva House - Architects have returned their study

Wider Housing – Discussion on going with HSCHT re way ahead for refurb and new housing. HSCHT want a roundtable meeting to include all relevant parties - HSCHT are visiting on 18th April. A&B Council are visiting on 16th April.

CM ACTION– still need to do some form of proper thankyou to Moxon’s – all to have a think about what would be appropriate.

Piers: TSL have completed the works and project is concluded.

WCs: Application to RTIF was not successful.

Sewerage: Mabbet’s survey report still not received despite chasing.

Ulva Ferry Car Parking: £250k awarded against £298k via the MICT application.

Energy: Ricardo Energy & Environment are to send in a detailed report in April.

Land Use Options: TC arranged for 9/4 with Caledonian Conservation and **JA**.

MacPhail consulting: will submit the AECS app on behalf of Ulva on 12/4 pending Board approval. It will also include the agri. element of LUOA. They are also working on a cattle feasibility study for AECS.

RSPB: **JA** leading this, investigations ongoing into sponsorship/partnerships.

Oysters: Planning app in progress.

Guidebook: Indexing etc. of the Inhabitants of Ulva document complete and publicly available on the website.

Sheila’s: Thatcher’s to visit site on 7th May.

Storas Ulbha Project: led by Ailsa, app. being prepared to the SNH’s NCHF fund. Deadline 22/4

Ardalum Campsite: Subcom. to advertise the mgt. of the campsite locally, with a view to extending to hostel and Air bnb's next year.

Midsummer Event: event planning ongoing.

SLF: SLF committee site visit confirmed for 2/5. Yearend report due 14th May.

Ulva on Mars: Ben Butler to carry out some research 13-17th May.

Archaeology: Edi Uni will run a field trip 5-23 August.

8. Ulva AECS application

CM – this needs more detailed discussion over some of the points, but given the deadline can we agree to submit the application as is and as MacPhail Consulting (MC) are recommending? Both **RM** and **BH** disagree – want a decision made now not later – **PG** – deadline is ? – 12/4

IH – all we are agreeing to here is giving our authorisation for MC to lodge an application on our behalf for funding. We don't have any costs until December or spend until January – it's just getting us on a list for consideration, or we agree to leave it for another year. So I recommend we submit it and await initial feedback and then review it.

CM – there is a lot of supporting evidence regarding spraying to improve the biodiversity for the long term

JLL – main concern was the initial email from MC “smoothed” over some of the arguments and did not present all the facts. **AM** – it was not inaccurate – **JLL** – disagrees, the science comes from peer reviewed papers and is not a personal opinion. **CW** agree initial email was not clear but subsequent emails are very clear, but agree there is a lot to be discussed. **JLL** expressed serious concerns for the documented health effects on the thyroid and adrenal glands by Asulam on mammals.

CM – given that the app has to be submitted in 4 days, can we submit it and then have a proper discussion after? We can revoke the application at a later date is that's the decision of this Board following that further discussion. Board had a general discussion about bracken control, spraying v manual clearing, machines, lay of the land on Ulva suitability for manual clearing etc.

CW – it is short sighted not to put the application in, **PG & JLL** agree but we must set a date for a meeting regarding the bracken and invite MC **BH** – agree – **IH** – all information must be circulated in advance of the meeting for all to read.

CM – Are we agreed that the application is submitted and a meeting is held within 6-8 weeks? Board agree. **HM** to contact MC to arrange a meeting

8. Micro Hydro – **AM**. Lawyers still discussing contract, hopefully finalised soon. 2nd FITS payment due soon.

9. Correspondence

- None not covered elsewhere.

10. Any Other Competent Business

- **Accounts 2018** – Auditors have nothing to report. Accounts prepared for both Charity and Trade, and both **IH** and **AM** propose that the Board accept the accounts. There was a full audit of the Charity this time because of Ulva. **HM** to send out to the Board. Accounts are accepted by Board.
- **Replant sub-committee** – **CW** have had 2 good meetings. Presented plans similar to those presented previously. Need to get them onto proper mapping software. **RM** – are the Board happy with the plan presented? **CM** – can see nothing contentious. **IH** – would be sensible to do Langamull and WA designs at the same time. Maybe the burial ground area is too exposed for native planting – logical to consider quick growing woodfuel planting instead? **CM** would suggest you speak to Chris March of CWE for advice on costings as a starting point. **CW** is “native planting” enough or do we need to stipulate actual species? **IH** Native should be good enough for the plan, but who is going to supply it and plant it will be up to the Board to decide, but should ask CWE for a price to do the mapping etc. (**BH** left meeting)
CW - do we use Tilhill to re do the fdp? **CM**- Board would agree that they are experts – maybe it would

need to be tendered? Does it need a complete re-write or just amendments – **IH** – just amendments, change the description of the replant section, so would be sensible to go back to Tilhill saying what we want to do and ask if they have any input/recommendations. **IH** to send draft fdp to Board and Sub Comm. **CW** to get the hand drawn maps into electronic format and circulate.

- **Staffing:** Malcolm is finishing on 31/5. **AM** has had discussions with 1 or 2 people who may be able to help out till a replacement is found for Malcolm. Vacancy to be advertised. **CM** – Craig is still picking up some of the outstanding items regarding the shed. **IH** – was always the case that we may not need a Dev Mgr. all the time – we also need to have the position funded. **AM** – would like to thank Craig for what he has done and it's decent of him to not stay, being paid, when there is no work. Some discussion had about reasons for both Craig and Malcolm leaving.
- **MNWG Mike Russell Visit:** we have been invited to this on 3/5 and asked if we would like to have a display & if we can circulate the event to our membership. Some concern amongst Board that MNWG don't portray us in a good light on their website. – can the Board members who are also members of this group please raise this at the next MNWG meeting and see if some of the wording can be “toned” down as its quite contentious at the moment.
- **Bushcraft on Ulva:** - response needed – **CM** to draft/circulate and send
- **AGM: 14th May** – advert to also ask for new Directors.
- **Fencing:** PG – may need to re look at putting in a style or gate near Langamull as already people are trying to climb over
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- **11. Date of next meeting:**

Sort meeting to follow immediately after the AGM on Tuesday 14th May. The meeting closed at 9.40pm pm