

**- 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**)

Apologies: Tracy Mayo (**TM**)

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

1. Welcome - CM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Matters Arising:

Plots

3. Minutes of Board meetings 17th May 2021 – all had read, no questions so approved and signed off. **CM** has spoken to the farmer re the fencing issue. Discussions on going. Some fencing left over on Ulva – if enough left we could use for this?

4. Finance –meeting arranged for Wednesday 23rd June, with James Cameron. **AP & TM** have had a meeting with JC.

5. Ulva

Boat House contents – tenants have proposed an alternative to them buying the contents, but this is not what was agreed. Draft response will be circulated then sent to them declining the offer.

Ulva Ferry TSL costs – **WR** – the cost of transporting TSL over was removed from the contract with TSL as part of cost saving. Discussions are ongoing with the Board and the ferry operator. **CM** it is a skilled job and should be remunerated accordingly. After a lot of discussion of the options, Board agreed to propose a monthly figure based on an average number of crossings every week. We need the certainty of a set figure. **WR** – to offset this we charge full rent and full insurance costs in August. **WR** need to draft the response and agree it and circulate. **JP** will draft. Meantime ask Rhuri for an invoice to cover June.

Bracken spraying – quote has been resubmitted, same costs as 2020, as they couldn't do the work last year. Needs to be formally accepted and signed. **TE** asked for clarification on how it was being paid for – ideally the AECS claim submitted for the fencing will be in so will come from that, but this payment might be delayed to 2022, **WR** and James have spoken to Triodos to see if we can have an overdraft to cover us until we get the fencing claim. Board approve **AP** to sign the quote acceptance.

6. Rebrand - AP – initial meeting in September, no costs incurred. They would talk to us then come back with a suggested plan of actions. Agree that they will talk to WR, AP, HM & JP.

7. DTAS – **AP** the COP26 DTAS exhibit has been cancelled. They still want to look at 4 development trusts and have chosen us. Want to create a 3 min film covering Ulva and NWM, interested in replant, hydro, Ulva etc. They are coming week of 26/7 for 2 days. They have their own film maker. Will be released at the DTAS conference, online, on 6th September. We would then have the film to use. **CM** – do we have any editorial control? **AP/WR** to clarify. **CM** – we do need this before its released. Need to insist on it.

8. Woodfuels – summer so orders significantly reduced. Lorry Hi-ab parts are on order. **AP** to agree a lone working policy with Paul.

9. Ulva – **WR** circulated report prior to meeting. All had read. In addition, A&B are coming to do a risk assessment of the water supply this summer. No charge to us, but they do make a charge for the annual testing. Will need to make sure the source is fenced off. **AP** will do a stock take of what fencing materials we actually have on Ulva.

AP – has spoken with a company called Wildeculture – an agri. consultancy who have a holistic management approach. Looks interesting and is in line/similar with what our farming consultant is advocating. They are interested in doing a FOC presentation to us on Ulva. Probably something for the Land Mgt. Group. Will circulate information to the Board to see if there is interest.

10. Replant – **TE, AP & PG** met with Treestory – excellent meeting. **AP & PG** have also met with James re the replant finances. **CM** keen to understand if Tilhill have been approached re forward selling timber. Treestory not sure it's a good option but **AP/CM** would still like to understand Tilhill's proposal, if there is one. **TE** will mention to Gordon.

Need to identify more plots – move to Finance meeting.

11. Correspondence

One of our crofters want to put in a pre-planning application to build a house on their croft. Need confirmation that the Board approve the de-crofting of the house site. Board approved subject to the T & C of their lease.

12. AOB

AP has spoken to Anne Cleave who would like to be co-opted to the Board.

TM has resigned from the MCC so will remain on the Board as a co-opted Director. **JP** remained on the MCC and will now be the MCC rep on our Board.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm – next meeting will be the finance meeting 23rd June, at 7.30pm.