

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

Present: Colin Morrison (**CM**), John Addy (**JA**), Jean Lanteri Laura (**JLL**), Tricia Evans (**TE**) Kirsty Shilson (**KS**)

Also Present: Helen Murray (minutes)

Apologies: Belinda Hale (**BH**), Pippa Gatty (**PG**), Rhuri Munro (**RM**) Ian Hepburn (**IH**) Rebecca Munro (**REM**)

CM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Minutes from 3rd June 2019 – **CM** asked all if minutes had been read and following confirmation he went over the actions.

KS volunteered to help map out the Langamull plots. To be discussed in the Housing Subcommittee – meeting yet to be arranged.

Langamull dumped car – **CM** to continue to chase to get this removed ***ACTION CM**

KS suggested Dervaig Toilet project goes into the Housing Sub Com – all agree

Terms of reference (tor) for the subcommittie's (sc) are to be drawn up by the individual sc's then presented to the Board for approval. **TE** asked for confirmation of who is on the sub committees – Ulva is **CM, JA, IH, RM & REM** (chair). Woodland is **JA, JLL, IH, PG, KS, TE & BH**.

CM reminded all that we still have the original replanting sc so the new Woodland sc need to decide how that fits, or invite members of that to the new sc, whilst still being manageable. The tor's should follow a uniform format.

Board recognised that **JLL** has done a lot of work on the Woodland tor already. Woodland sc to meet in next few weeks to review this draft.

2. Finance Report – no finance report received, **HM** gave a brief overview of current balances & significant transactions. Board agreed to increase **HM** spend authority to £200.

3. Ulva- REM sent a report prior to the meeting that **CM** read out in her absence:

Wendy Reid of DTAS formally offered development manager role, and has accepted. Excellent appointment, and will be moving in to Fisherman's at the end of August. Begins job 19th August. Line manager to be appointed at Thursday's sc meeting.

Ulva sc terms of reference etc. expected to be finalised in time for next Board Meeting, or once Development manager has had input.

Housing (lead by **IH** and **JA**) Extremely useful and helpful visit by planners. At their suggestion we are starting to look at redeveloping existing derelict sites such as Bracadale farm and Ted's shed. These could be approved under the present planning guidelines quite readily. Also narrowed down potential new build sites. Planning for these more difficult but they did promise a "letter of comfort" pending new planning regime. That will be set out in a comprehensive Masterplan for Ulva, which once/if approved by the Council would trump the local plan. Promise of help from Council. Will be a significant piece of work. SC drafting TOR and guidance for contractors. Hope to get it out to tender very soon.

AECS application in. Now need to start thinking about gearing up for buying calves in autumn so we are ready/eligible in January (assuming the grant comes through). Looking at options as to who will manage the beasts over the winter, and until we have clear plan on division of land or bringing in new farmers. Sc will be working on this over the next few months.

Vegetation and habitat surveys underway, Julie is back studying the south end of the island now. Planning to include the islands in Cragaig Bay. Further visit focussed on invertebrates planned for August. Next step on Land Use will be

to integrate these surveys with assessment of agricultural potential.

Deer Management. Due to start again on Ulva and also now in W Ardhu and Langamull. Timings issues with slaughterhouse need to be explored to see how we process meat for market.

Midsummer event was a huge success. Thank you to Tob High pipe band, the gaelic choir and Hannah and Sorren for fantastic music. Big demand for tickets last minute, so will take this into account in future when giving numbers to caterers and bar. Some issues with people turning up without tickets. Thanks to the Bellachroy for their generous donation too. **JA** – thanks to everyone for setting up and running this – it was a huge amount of work.

Work and discussions ongoing in relation to heritage and archaeology. Edinburgh Uni returning in August, and Amiria Salmond still working on new guide book.

Big house application that was submitted for heritage centre/ self-catering – not expected to hear back until September.

Sheila's rethatching expected to happen in September. Thatcher will be coming to stay for two weeks and stay in Bracadale.

Air BnBs- Rhuri has been managing Fisherman's and Craigaig for holiday rental, projected income from this summer is £10k

A donation of £10k received this year towards a barge.

Big house garden – volunteers still working hard along with Rhuri to help re-establish the garden and make it a welcoming place for visitors. New wooden benches in place.

At the end of the BM there was some discussion over the potentially proposed new fishfarm off of Ulva. **CM** advises we will have to be consulted once the proposal is formal. We can then make an informed decision about our position.

4: Woodfuels and Shed

Woodfuels - Eve sent a summary of current issue with equipment and a shed update, along with some ideas for the. **JA** – fully support all of her ideas and she has the backing of the Board.

Board agreed Eve can authorise equipment repairs up to £500 before seeking Board approval. Invoices for repairs still to be authorised by finance directors.

TE meeting Eve this week to understand role.

Eve advises its time to look at replacing the tractor and trailer – Eve/**TE** to speak to **IH** regarding options and finance
***ACTION TE & IH**

Shed – painting to be completed. Eve will be asking for volunteers to help with this

Eve chasing electrician for electrical design, local contractor to fit the trunking.

Water tanks still to be moved – Eve is chasing **CM *ACTION CM**

Road level to be raised – not part of building warrant but needs to be done before shed can be used properly.

5. AOB

Deer

JA – Rob Cameron has been given the same arrangement for West Ardhu and Langamull as he has on Ulva. Does not look like we can process venison through the slaughterhouse or Jackson's in Oban. Maybe look at selling via the local producers markets.

It's not practical to "shoo" the deer out of the fenced area at North Langamull. **JLL** – the pedestrian gate is too low – they can easily jump over it. Will need to resolve before we replant. **JLL** and **KS** would like to try to get the deer out – salt licks or similar? **JLL** disagrees with the proposal to shoot them **CM** we have to manage their numbers, it's not a money making exercise, but a deer welfare issue. **JLL** concerned we have created a natural trap for them, has not had a good experience with stalkers previously. **JA** advised that Scottish Natural Heritage are monitoring deer numbers and have advised there are far too many on Mull/Ulva **KS** it would be good to try to encourage them out, also know someone at SNH so might be able to get them to come and talk to the Board.

TE: Board members will have to agree to disagree on this but we need an agreed Board stance.

Board agree to leave the deer at North Langamull for a couple of month – put on agenda for the September Board meeting – **JA** to advise Rob Cameron ***ACTION JA**

Ulva AECS application – agree this was covered by the Ulva report.

Haul Road cattle grids – a local farmer has requested that these are cleared out as its preventing them from keeping livestock in their field. **CM** will arrange for this to be done by end of August. ***ACTION CM**

Website -need to look at revamping this – **HM** to contact the designer of the new bunkrooms site.

8. Date of next meeting:

12th August at 7.30pm. The meeting closed at 9.45 pm