

**- Minutes of Board Meeting for
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd
Meeting held on Monday 23rd August 2021 @ 7.30pm via Zoom.**

Present: Colin Morrison (**CM**), Tricia Evans (**TE**), Wendy Reid (**WR**) Andrew Primrose (**AP**) Tracy Mayo (**TM**) Pippa Gatty (**PG**) Anne Cleave (**AC**) James Cameron (**JC**)

Apologies: John Addy (**JA**)

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

1. Welcome - CM welcomed everyone to the meeting, and AC and JA to the Board. Also thanked Jo for her involvement.

2. Minutes of Board meetings 20th July 2021 – all had read, no questions so approved and signed off.

3. Finance

Several accountants approached and one proposal received & circulated. **JC** – have you all read the proposal and happy with the proposal to change accountants & auditors – all present confirmed and agreed. Lawyer has confirmed that we need an EGM to change auditors. **JC** confirms that given the size of the charity now, we should do a full audit every year. **CM** – do we want to postpone decision another month? Some discussion but agree that we do want to move. **JC** – need to notify existing auditors and membership.

JC – year end being worked on for 20-21. Hope to have draft set of mgt. accounts by next meeting.

Chasing the trade stocktake of felled timber.

Budgets – Liz has prepared funding budgets for thh SU project – **JC** now needs to spend time on this before sending it out. **WR** is finalising similar for the Ulva farm budget. **JC** asked for an update on Ulva House planning – hoping for a decision in a few weeks . **AP** – can we proceed with Flag without SU planning? **JC** confirms. Need to go ahead and take on the overdraft with Triodos as it will provide a buffer for cash flowing all the projects.

TM – can we create some standard paragraphs for the finance sections of funding applications, to explain the account, reserves policy etc. **TM** will liaise with **JC** on this.

JC left the meeting

4. Woodfuels

AP – has guidance on how to do the stocktake.

CM – need to get the website up and running very soon.

A good flow of orders coming in as customers get ready for winter.

AP – Paul wants log bench bolted to floor, need to keep looking for funding for a new lorry. Need to level off an area at shed for access.

5. Ulva

WR – report circulated prior to meeting. No questions raised.

Headlines are that the Flag contract has been awarded to TSL after a tender process. Looking at works happening Oct 21 to Feb 22. Potential for cashflow implications.

Renovations – Bracadales wont now be ready till Feb due to various unforeseen issues, but Manse on track. Costs still on budget. **WR** will move over to Mull for the winter to release Fisherman's for renovation early.

Board needs to focus on Lang Mgt strategy, to include the cattle. **WR** would like to propose a small focus group of people interested in these areas, who have the time to research options etc, who will then make recommendations back to the Board as a whole. As we also need to look at next stage of re-population & housing, proposes that the Ulva sub committee look at this. Asking for Board approval to go ahead and set up this group. **CM** – the Ulva SC have the remit in their TOR to set up the land mgt group, and to discuss and recommend to the Board re the repopulation.

TM would be interested in being involved, at least initially.

6. Replant – **TE** Treestory has had various meetings with Scottish Forestry, they expressed frustrations at previous failures, but are understand what we are trying to achieve. Pleased we are working with Treestory, and that more felling will unlock cashflow. Committed to a further meeting on site on 28th Sep. **TE, PG & AP** will be at the meeting. All other plans re consultation etc are on hold until after this meeting. Offered the Board a zoom prior to this to ensure all are familiar with exactly what we are proposing to Scottish Forestry. **TE** to arrange a date for this.

7. Correspondence – none not covered elsewhere

8. Matters arising/ AOB

Archaeology on Ulva - various organisations have approached us. **AP** has requested more information from the group wanting to be on site in 2022. **AP** will keep Board informed, will fwd. on the further info.

Forest Crofts – **TE** – questioned what our crofter's responsibilities are – specifically in respect of the rules around where they are resident. We have a waiting list of folk who are interested.

Volunteer Policy – circulated prior to meeting, are Board happy to adopt? Board agrees.

Wood miser – MICT interested in taking a part share – Board is happy with the proposal. Need to draw up a contract, maintenance policy, arrange appropriate insurance etc.

Plot sales – cf to next meeting. West Ardhu plot sale has completed.

Forest School – **TM** – looking at a willow workshop mid-October. Looking at applications for funding to restore the existing forest school area, make new shelters etc.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm – next meeting will be on Tues 28th September, at 7.30pm.