

**- Minutes of Board Meeting for  
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd  
Meeting held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021 @ 7.30pm via Zoom.**

**Present:** Colin Morrison (**CM**), Tricia Evans (**TE**), Wendy Reid (**WR**) Tracy Mayo (**TM**) Pippa Gatty (**PG**) John Addy (**JA**)

**Apologies:** James Cameron (**JC**) Andrew Primrose (**AP**) Anne Cleave (**AC**)

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

**1. Welcome - CM** welcomed everyone to the meeting

**2. Minutes of Board meetings 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021** – all had read, no questions so approved and signed off.

### **3. Matters Arising**

#### **Plot Sales**

**JA** – up to 15 sites on Ulva – need to agree a way forward – the decision on woodland plots will reflect on Ulva as well. Money from Ulva sales must be only spent on Ulva as a condition of the Land Fund Grant.

**CM** – need to identify some in the woodlands area also – **PG** can we sell them with a burden, so they remain residences as opposed to holiday homes? **CM** – possible to do this. Several options discussed

**CM/PG/TM** agree to set up a sub-group for the woodland plots, and there will be an Ulva housing sub-group – information will be shared.

**Dervaig Toilets** – A & B council planners have asked further information re the burden which we have provided – shows that whilst burdened, it does not have to be a public loo, it could be for other community benefit, e.g. housing. Keep chasing planning and then Board need to decide if they proceed with loos or something else. Board agree that this is something they would want to look at.

**Trade Stock Take** – **JC** is pushing for this so he can get the Trade accounts prepared. Would Andy M be able to help with the stock take as he has helped previously? **TM** and Andy M will speak to **AP** and get the figures to **JC**.

**EGM** – arranged for 11<sup>th</sup> October to discuss changing our auditor. Invites sent, notices up, current auditors advised.

**4. Finance** – **JC** working on getting everything ready for Charity, Trade & APL for 2020- 2021 to go to the accountants. Propose a separate finance meeting to go over everything, including budgets. Arrange for Oct separate to the next Board Meeting.

**TE** – need to look at contingency for running payroll and other bank payments should **HM** be absent. **TE** happy to be given access to accounts, will discuss with **HM**.

**5. Woodfuels** - website being created by **AP**, **CM** will create an advert for Round & About in November.

### **6. Ulva**

**WR** – report circulated prior to meeting. No questions raised. Highlighted that two properties have slipped again, due to issues across the industry getting contractors. Contractor still expect overall programme to complete by end May 2022. There will also be a detailed budget review this November.

Allocation policy being reviewed by the steering group and starting to think about the applications process, advertising, timeline etc. Boathouse tenants – if they are allocated a property, it cannot be tied to them running the Boathouse business as they are not staff. Subgroup will be recommending to the Board to allocate them 2 Bracadale, as 1 Bracadale is a studio property for single occupancy. **CM** questioned if we can allocate them a property outside of an agreed process? **WR** – they have a business on Ulva, and when they come back in the spring, they will be

homeless so they score very highly on our allocations policy. **TM** not comfortable to agree to this without a process being agreed, **JA /PG** agree. There was discussion as to whether we have a full open process or a specific process for this property/situation. **WR** to go back to the subgroup and get a process put in place asap.

Decoration quote needed for Manse to be decorated in time for Christmas. **CM** to speak to Bryan Gibson and we will also get a quote from the contractor TSL use.

SU Administrator has resigned. Propose that Liz takes on the admin of the claims by going full time – funders are happy to support this, and the budget can support this given we won't have the SU admin salary. Sub-group approve the approach, need Board approval. Board all agree to this.

Looking to go out to tender for Ulva House in November, doing a pre-notification before this. If we get no interest, then we have to go back to the funders to advise of a potential issue with this element of the project. The European money has to be spent by end 2022. Liz is chasing the planning application.

FLAG pier project – all progressing well – should meet target to start mid-October.

Ulva residents are experiencing an on-going issue with low voltage – SSE are monitoring the situation. SSE in direct contact with the residents and **HM** also speaking to SSE & the residents.

Land Mgt. group – need to arrange a meeting asap as numerous decisions need to be made.

Need to seek professional advice regarding the water system on Ulva with regards to the housing renovations & water treatment, which will cost – do Board support this? All do, **WR** to go ahead and get quotes. **JA** – also get them to consider future capacity – **WR** will get them to separate this on the quotes.

The stalkers contract has finished – sub group recommend renewing for a further 3 years – Board approve.

**WR** left the meeting

**7. Replant** – **TE** – met with Treestory today and there is a meeting online on 26<sup>th</sup> with Scottish Forestry, Treestory and **TE, PG & AP** representing the Board. Still hopeful that Cameron Maxwell will visit the woodlands at some point in the future. **TE** will do a report to the Board after the meeting. **PG** asked about ringfencing money we receive from any future felling for the replant – Board all agree that this is a given and the money will be ringfenced for replant only. **HM** explained that ring fenced money is held in a separate bank account to the day-to-day bank account. It's also ringfenced on the Sage book-keeping system, and also highlighted in the accounts. Any spend of ringfenced money is documented and evidenced. It cannot be used for other projects or cashflow.

**Woodfuels** – **TE** – did Paul's review, he is happy to take on all the hours following Stewart leaving. Need to flatten off the area outside the shed to make operations there easier. **CM** will have a look and take a wee digger up. Need to move the woodmizer out of the shed – build a small lean to. No room in the shed for it to be used with log and woodchip activity. Paul has some good ideas for some of the waste products like the bark etc. Guttering at the woodshed needs to be cleared out – which Paul will do. Water tanks need attention as they are leaking – **CM** will resolve.

**8 Correspondence** – none not covered elsewhere.

**9. AOB**

**TM** will put out some donations boxes over rally weekend for the Willow Workshops, to be held in spring 2022. Also had an application to submit for some further funding.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm – next meeting will be Finance on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October, following the EGM.