

**Sunart Community Company  
Longrigg Woodland Working Group  
Minutes of meeting 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018 – Fire Station Strontian**

**Attending:** R Dunn, C Ogilvie, K Proctor, I Baker, L Sutherland, D Barker, J Jones, J McIntyre, A Edwards

1. J Jones welcomed people to the meeting

**2. Introduction**

- a. Roles: J Jones clarified roles, that I Baker is managing this first stage with the consultants and K Proctor is providing advice on contractor management and is the link with the Community Company Board.
- b. The purpose of the Group: That the group is advisory, and any thoughts on stakeholders and any improvements to the process which the consultants can take on board within the timescale and budget are welcomed.

**3. Feasibility & Viability Study**

- a. I Baker gave an overview of the proposed work plan, the process and timeline (a copy is attached). The consultants are RDI and ACRES namely Amanda Calvert, Neil Donaldson and Will Richardson, and I Baker has met with them. I Baker explained that Neil and Will had been in the Longrigg Woodland and had made an initial survey. There will be a Longrigg woodland drop-in meeting at the Village Hall on 7<sup>th</sup> December between 12:30 and 7:00pm, with mince pies, mulled wine, teas and coffees and activities for children. The aim is to attract as many people as possible and focus on community woodlands more generally, not just Longrigg Woodland. This is because there may be wider scope in the future. J McIntyre asked when the results from the early survey of Longrigg Woodland might be available. The hope these will be available for Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> December drop-in meeting.
- b. There is a Sunart Community Company Board meeting scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019 where the Board will be given full feedback and the outline report from the consultants. There will then be a Community Meeting in February to share the details. The full final report and recommendations from the consultants will be by the end of March 2019, and if the decision is to proceed with a Stage 2 application this will need to be done in April 2019.
- c. J McIntyre asked if the current CATS require a public ballot. The answer is no, but evidence of a public consultation is needed.
- d. R Dunn asked why this group i.e. Longrigg working Group had been disbanded and why the Longrigg Working Group were not identified on the typed list of stakeholders [the list presented at the meeting]. The chair explained that the group had not been disbanded. The process had been delayed early on and a scheduled meeting cancelled, as there was nothing to report. However, when some time later the process was restarted the group were informed by email and asked for comments. The group were again contacted by email when the application for tender was published and when the selection process was taking place. No comments had been received. There were two responses from the invitation to tender. The consultants selected were on the basis of their thorough and clear application, their experience in this field, the proposed process of research, the stakeholder and community consultation outlined in their application. The Chair apologised if people feel the group had not been kept informed, there was no deliberate intention, it was more an oversight, and as Secretary of the Sunart Community Company, the chair accepts responsibility. With regards the stakeholder list, the working group is on the original list of stakeholders and on the

list given to the consultants. The omission on the list presented to the meeting is an error in typing, for which the chair apologised.

**4. The information shared with the consultants to date:**

- CADISPA community appraisal findings and priority lists
- Sunart Community Council and Company Visioning Workshop findings
- Community Woodland Workshop write up
- Key Stakeholder list and contact consent forms

The Chair asked for any additions the meeting might want to add to the current list of stakeholders. Suggestions made:

- North Sunart Woodland Group – a combination of Forestry Commission Scotland and private land owners and Common Grazings – Malcolm Gillespie; this group has been in abeyance for a number of years but is revisiting/ reviewing matters, and they have some equipment
- Ian Shaw – a very experienced contractor and he might be someone to check some of the consultants comments
- Broader Groups might include Woodland Crofts and the Scottish Wood Lot Association
- Locally: R McIntyre; J Cunningham; P Baxter and the owner of the house next Ian and Lorna Meekie

**5. Timeline:**

g. Key dates outlined:

- Site Visits and Surveys week of 26<sup>th</sup> Nov
- 7<sup>th</sup> December Drop in 12.30 – 7.30pm (with some initial points from site visits)
- 6<sup>th</sup> February Draft Report Presentation to the Board
- April Final Report and Presentation
- April Community Meeting

2. **Key Stakeholders** – see item 4 above

**3. Any other information/ research believed relevant for the consultants**

- h. Suggestion that the consultants consider what “organisation” should buy the woodland (if the recommendation is to buy). Also, whether or not is this an opportunity to start another company, as was the case with the Hydro.
- i. J McIntyre suggested there is a report which although about 10 years old may still have some relevant points for consideration [I have emailed Jamie McIntyre for the details of the report my notes are a bit garbled. I have “Sunart Oakwoods Days(?) Potential for Rural Development Commission S&H Report George Peterkin, Rick Worrall. Can anyone recall the exact details please?]

**2. Actions:**

- i. Contact the original Longrigg Group
- j. Convene a meeting for January 2019 to discuss initial findings
- k. The consultant to present to the Group and Board
- l. Proposed date of meeting 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019