## **Aigas Community Forest**

## **Steering Committee**

#### **Minutes** of meeting held in The Kirk Coffee Shop at 7.30pm on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May

Present		Apologies	In Attendance
Steve Byford	Calum Fraser	Alisdair Stewart	
John Graham	Mark Hedderwick		
Mia Scott	Andrew Leaver		
Philip Knott	Peter Masheter		
Graeme Scott	Lara McDonald		

ltem		Action
1	Minutes of meeting of 12 <sup>th</sup> May	
	The minutes were approved by Calum Fraser and seconded by Mark Hedderwick.	
2	<ul> <li>Matters arising from the minutes</li> <li>→ Community Land Unit Application</li> <li>Graeme Scott has been informed that Andy Anderson the CLU Manager is on leave and we will not receive a final decision on this application till his return on 27<sup>th</sup> May</li> <li>Until this application is approved we cannot go ahead with appointing consultants or establishing limited company</li> <li>→ Ward Discretionary Fund Application</li> <li>Andrew Leaver prepared and submitted an application to The Highland Council Ward Discretionary Fund on 21<sup>st</sup> May. This application was for £2,650, being the amount required to bring the total funding from CLU, Strathglass Community Woodland and WDF to £12,000 – the estimated costs of start-up and production of feasibility study / business plan. Copies of this application with covering letters providing further information were sent to ClIrs Davidson and Carmichael. No feedback has been received from the Council.</li> <li>→ Provision of Legal Services</li> <li>Mia Scott approached Douglas Graham of Macleod and MacCallum who has confirmed he will be able to provide legal services. Douglas Graham is still to provide confirmation of his terms. No contract will be signed until CLU funding is approved.</li> <li>Steve Byford contacted the Royal Bank of Scotland in Beauly. RBS require at least 2 signatories on the account. Each signatory to provide photographic ID and utility bill. Also need either confirmation of company registration number from Companies House or copy of Companies House application from solicitor.</li> </ul>	

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$\rightarrow$	Approach to Highland Council re Community Ballot		
•	Andrew Leaver contacted John Bruce, Elections Manager		
	at the Council. Mr Bruce confirmed that his office can run		
	a community ballot for the price of envelopes, postage and		
	other expenses. We would not need to pay for staff time.		
	Mr Bruce was relaxed about timescales but we should		
	provide as much notice as possible.		
•	<ul> <li>Mr Bruce also provided the electoral roll for the old</li> </ul>		
	Kilmorack and Kiltarlity Ward.		
•	Alisdair Stewart has agreed to be Ballot Czar with		
	responsibility for organising the community ballot		
3 <b>T</b> e	ender for Feasibility Study		
•	The brief was circulated to 31 consultants on 13 <sup>th</sup> May with a tender deadline of 12:00 midday on 22 <sup>nd</sup> May. This		
	deadline was extended to 12:00 midday on 25 <sup>th</sup> May.		
	At the second deadline two tenders had been received		
•			
	from C J Piper & Co and Sylvestrus Ltd (Dietrich Pannwitz		
	and associates). These tenders were circulated.		
•	An e-mail had also been received from Bell-Ingram		
	indicating that a tender should arrive by 26 <sup>th</sup> May, having		
	been delayed due to technical problems.		
•	A draft scoring matrix was also circulated and discussed.		
	A number of revisions were agreed.		
•	It was agreed that Andrew Leaver would revise the scoring	A Leaver	
	matrix and circulate by e-mail. Andrew will also circulate	ALEaver	
	the Bell-Ingram tender if it arrives.		
•	Committee members are to score the three tenders using		
	the scoring matrix and return these to Andrew by 27 <sup>th</sup> May.	All	
•	The top two tenders are to be invited to a site visit /		
	interview on Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> May (preferred) or evening of 1 <sup>st</sup>	A Leaver	
	June.		
•	Graeme Scott, Peter Masheter, Steve Byford and John	G Scott	
	Graham all indicated intention to be present for this	P Masheter	
	process. All other committee members are welcome to	S Byford	
	attend if they can.	J Graham	
•	Those attending the interviews will rescore consultants		
	and the winning tender will be chosen.		
•	Andrew Leaver will contact all those who tendered and	A Leaver	
	identify potential availability for 31 <sup>st</sup> May / 1 <sup>st</sup> June		
4 <b>A</b> I	rangements for meeting to discuss community		
	oundary		
•	Calum Fraser circulated a photocopy of a 1:50,000 map		
	centered on Crask of Aigas with circles drawn at 3, 4 and 5		
	km radius		
•	Andrew Leaver had obtained a copy of the electoral roll for		
	the old Kilmorack and Kiltarlity Ward		
•	Steve Byford agreed to contact the Post Office and enlist		
	support with identifying all addresses off the electoral roll	S Byford	
	within the 4km radius line		

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	<ul> <li>John Graham agreed to undertake a similar activity</li> </ul>	J Graham
	<ul> <li>Results of both will help further discussion on the community boundary</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>General discussion favoured identification of a number of postcode areas within and crossing the 4 km radius</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Lara McDonald stressed the importance of defining the boundary at the earliest opportunity and the value in a public meeting to support this process</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Mia Scott offered to take photographs of the forest from various view points in the potential community area</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Andrew Leaver to put the matter of community boundary on the agenda for the next meeting</li> </ul>	A Leaver
5	AOCB	
	<ul> <li>Andrew Leaver read out a letter from Betsy Walling at the NFLS confirming receipt of formal notification of interest and end of the 56 day period as 14<sup>th</sup> July 2009.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Andrew Leaver read out an e-mail from Gavin Cormack at Teanassie Primary School offering to join the Committee to represent the School. It was agreed that Gavin should be invited to join.</li> </ul>	A Leaver
	<ul> <li>John Graham offered to register a web address such as <u>www.aigasforest.org</u> for use by the Committee and its successors. It was agreed that John should find out what options are open to us.</li> </ul>	J Graham

Summary of Actions from Meeting		
Ref	Action	Person Responsible
4/1	Revise tender scoring matrix based on recommendations of committee. Circulate revised matrix and any further tenders received by 26 <sup>th</sup> May.	Andrew Leaver
4/2	Use revised scoring matrix to score all tenders and return completed matrices to Andrew Leaver by 27 <sup>th</sup> May	All
4/3	Meet with two consultants whose tenders were scored highest and conduct a site visit / interview.	Graeme Scott Peter Masheter Steve Byford John Graham
4/4	Rescore top two consultants following site visit / interview and make recommendation to Committee by e-mail.	Graeme Scott Peter Masheter Steve Byford John Graham
4/5	Contact all consultants who tendered to identify availability on 31 <sup>st</sup> May and 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Andrew Leaver
4/6	Contact Post Office and enlist support of local postal staff in identifying all addresses off the electoral roll within a 4km radius of Aigas Forest. Bring results to next meeting.	Steve Byford
4/7	Identify all addresses off electoral roll within a 4km radius of Aigas Forest. Bring results to next meeting for comparison.	John Graham
4/8	Add Community Boundary to agenda for meeting of 8 June.	Andrew Leaver
4/9	Invite Gavin Cormack, Teanassie Primary School to join the Committee to represent the School.	Andrew Leaver
4/10	Investigate potential options for a web address and circulate to Committee.	John Graham

Chair		Date	
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