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Minutes of the Friends of Cammo Ordinary General Meeting held at Cammo Lodge on the 7th of December 2022 at 7-30 pm

Present: Simon Gillam Secretary, Nick Bengel Chair, Karen Edwards Membership Secretary, Lynn Whitehead Treasurer, Michael Roe, Gill Harris, Harry Taylor, Sheena McRobie, Katherine Thomson, Judy Arrowsmith, Bert Scott, James Murray, Peter Scott, Marian Allen, Callum Towns, Roger Buchanan, Steven McGoldrick, Ian Johnson, Rhona Paterson.

Apologies – Bruce Angus, Claire Wallace, Norma Johnstone, Esther Davidson, Cllr Louise Young, David Kyles, Carol Turnbull, Rachel Stewart, Anne Currie.

Nick thanked Lynn for providing the mulled wine and other Christmas refreshments and for her hard work in cleaning and painting the Lodge. Lynn replied to say that she had been assisted by Karen and Sheena.

Membership

Karen Edwards reported that there are 222 paid up members on the books, including 30 new members this year. The big push to recruit new members from the Cammo Meadows estate has been deferred until the new year when more units are occupied.

Treasurers Report

We currently have **£5,908** in the bank.

This is made up of Restricted Funds of £215 for information panels and General Funds of £5,693. The main items of income and expenditure since the September General Meeting have been as follows: -

- Annual subscriptions and donations have continued at a satisfactory rate.
- We have also received a very generous donation of £760 from the Lewis Leap charity's dog show event in the park.
- We have had record sales of 60 cartons of honey.
- We have spent £648 on a rustic seat using a donation made earlier in the year by the Cammo Residents Association. - The seat cost required £22 top-up to add to CRA donation; there will also be an installation cost (outstanding).
- We have spent £541 on wildflowers and trees. - The £541 on wildflower and trees comprises the £300 for orchard ID, £100 for marsh marigolds for wetland from restricted funds, and £141 for hedgerow trees.
- We have spent £202 on 8 information boards for the Lodge.

Overall, our finances remain satisfactory.

Nick Bengel's Report

The Wet Meadow Boardwalk has been installed, the rope, which is unsatisfactory will need to be replaced, but otherwise it is good. During the installation, a field drain was broken which has caused a bit of a quagmire. This should be addressed at the same time the windust paths are installed to the two ends of the boardwalk. The canal

has a leak which if not rectified will cause problems in a hot summer, not only for the canal but also the wet meadow which it feeds, so there is some urgency. The canal is a Historic Monument and therefore liaison will have to take place with Historic Environment Scotland.

Environmental Update from Nick Bengé

- There is very little litter in the park now.
- The recently installed benches look good.
- There is evidence of Herons, Buzzards and a Kestrel, which signifies an increasing vole population.
- Wildflower plugs have been planted in the banks behind the hedgerows.
- All the problems with the trees which were planted by Glendale have now been sorted by Nick and are doing well.
- David Kyles is using the Friends of Cammo group as an exemplar of what other Friends groups could achieve.
- Two Friends Committee work parties have removed many metres of redundant /dangerous barbed wire/wire fences.
- Wood chips were spread near North Gate and on paths off the main drive (East Avenue) and have been taken by buggy up to the walled garden ready for distribution around the bases of the apple trees. Sheena thanked Simon for his hard work protecting the Japanese umbrella pine in the Pinetum spreading wood chips, clearing vegetation and cutting ivy.
- This year there has not been much vandalism or parties in evidence.

David Kyles Report - David's report will no longer feature as it is to be replaced by the Cammo Management Group updates.

Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society (EAFS) - There is no EAFS report, although Nick said that no new major digs are planned.

Cammo Management Group

The last meeting included a report by Nick on the Friends of Cammo and the work we have done. The Forest Kindergarten (FK) will do the next report. This Management Group is working well and stops miscommunication amongst park users. David has requested a cleaning regime for the Lodge sharing costs with FK.

Atkins report - It looks like there will be some progress regarding the consolidation of the stables/walled garden. David met the EAFS to discuss the potential progress of work following the Atkins Report, including interpretation of the stables.

Lockable storage - This is to be installed behind the Lodge for the purpose of housing the kindergarten trolleys and archaeological tools. David is awaiting costing and will then go ahead with the purchase.

Lodge Extension - David is to find someone in the council who can draw up plans to extend the Lodge. The plan is to double the existing footprint and it will probably use up the bulk of the Home Farm money. Rhona Patterson asked whether grant funding would be available, but Nick thought the money would not be a problem. Peter Scott suggested funding the stables consolidation through the Historic Environment Agency rather than using up the Home Farm capital.

General Maintenance - David has fixed some areas of loose wire fencing. A drainage ditch has also been dug to reduce flooding at the front of the Lodge.

Annual orienteering event - organised by the ESOC this is to take place on 14th January 2023 and a running event has been organised on Sunday 5th February 2023, but the landowner has not agreed access to the field path leading to the water tower.

The memorial bench - This has been cleared. Ian Johnson who was present, confirmed this was the case and that he did not wish to cause any ill-feeling. Sheena said the bench will now be used a lot more. Nick suggested that daffodils and primroses could be planted around the bench and Ian thought this was a good idea.

The map boards - These are to be revised. Peter Scott is looking for a decent map base from which to start and then the new features i.e. the Wetlands, will need to be added. At which point it can go to the designer, this will be followed up by David Kyles. Nick remarked that the map boards were too low, but it was suggested by others that the boards do need to be accessible to children and wheelchair users.

Road Signage - Proper signs are to be made for the roadside in front of the Lodge indicating the direction of the car parks and in due course a mirror could be installed to aid visibility at the junction. However, as this is a health and safety issue, reports of accidents or near misses need to be submitted and we are waiting for information from David as to who we should report these to.

Cammo Estate Advisory Committee This has not met in a long time and the new Cammo Management Group has largely taken over its work.

Planning

Simon Gillam reported the **City Plan 2030** will be submitted to the Scottish Government by the end of the year, to be reviewed by September 2023. **Land north of Craigs Road**, the planning application appeal was submitted to the Scottish Government but has been further delayed by the reporter seeking comments on the impact of the draft National Planning Framework 4. A decision should be made by mid-December 2022. **Experimental Traffic Regulation Order – Cammo Walk**, this has been extended for at least 6 months pending other planning matters. **Proposed closure of Cammo Road beyond North Car Park**, this has been postponed pending completion of the new Maybury Road – Craigs Road junction. Peter Scott added there is a consultation on 20 mph road speeds taking place. Simon said that reduction to 20 mph on Cammo Road and Cammo Walk as far as the car parks had been agreed in early 2021 but still not implemented. A question was asked if there were likely to be traffic lights between Cammo Gardens and the Maybury Road. Peter Scott advised this had been under review for many years and consultants were also looking at adding a cycle path to the Maybury Road.

Dates of next meetings

AGM – 1st March 2023

OGM – 14th June 2023/6 September 2023/6th December 2023

Any other business

Leaf and Bean

The consensus was that had been a good addition to the park so far. The personnel help with cleaning the Lodge, they are not causing much litter and while they are there, the Lodge is open, and people are able to use the toilets so better than originally feared. Another application for a catering van had been submitted for the south car park and although this had been opposed largely on safety grounds for the road users in that area, a decision is still awaited from the council.

Future social events

Callum Towns raised the question of social events as there had not been a barbeque for many years. Various suggestions were made such as using the Turnhouse Golf Club, having outside events including music, children's events and stalls, a family picnic. We were intending to have a celebration of the opening of the boardwalk in the summer 2022 but completion was unfortunately delayed until winter 2022. As one of the problems with the outside barbeque was the loss on the food in the event of cancellation, a suggestion was made that a food van could be used for such events. All ideas will be considered for the future.

Meeting Closed

Friends of Cammo
December 2022