



## **Minutes of Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 in Cammo Lodge at 19.30**

**Present:** Nick Benge (Chairperson), Simon Gillam (Secretary), Lynn Whitehead (Treasurer), Shay Dean (Membership Secretary), Sheena McRobie, Peter Scott, Marian Allen, Grahame Whitehead, Judy Arrowsmith, David Wallis, Esther Davidson, Katherine Thomson, Euan Drysdale, Liz Drysdale, Carol Turnbull.

**Apologies:** David Kyles (Forestry & Natural Heritage Service), Cllr Kevin Lang, Michael Roe, Rachel Stewart, Callum Towns, Martyn Hawthorn, Harry Taylor, Douglas Seale, Cath Gillies and Carol Campbell.

The meeting was preceded by a demonstration of the new website [www.friendsofcammo.org](http://www.friendsofcammo.org) developed for us by Royal High School pupils Connor Coull, Ryan Gregson and Lewis Trundle. They distributed QR codes that allow the site to be accessed by smartphone (version with revised central image shown here). We are very pleased with the site and the RHS pupils were thanked for their work on it and for the demonstration. Connor stayed for the meeting.



## **Annual General Meeting**

### **1. Minutes of AGM held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the 2018 AGM were approved. It was noted that Marcel Crolla had not been able to take up his post on the Committee. All other matters arising would be covered later in the agenda.

### **2. Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for 2018**

The Trustees Annual Report and Accounts had been approved by the committee and our independent examiner, and had been submitted to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). A copy is available from our new website (on page About – Committee), along with previous reports. Lynn summarised the Financial Review of 2018 by saying that the financial situation is satisfactory, all grant money has been spent, general funds of over £3000 remain, our income from subscriptions and donations was up on 2017 thanks to recruitment drives, offsetting the loss on the cancelled BBQ and higher insurance costs, and our spending on stakes and mesh for trees.

### **3. Election of Officer Bearers and Committee**

The three office bearers (Nick, Simon and Lynn) and the two other Committee members (Shay and Michael) were willing to continue. There were no other candidates. The five were proposed by Peter Scott and seconded by David Wallis and elected. The Committee vacancy can be filled by co-option during the year if there is a suitable candidate.

### **4. Date and time of 2020 AGM**

It was agreed that, following the decision at the previous meeting to switch meetings from Wednesdays to Tuesdays, the next AGM will be on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, 7.30, Cammo Lodge.

## **Other business**

### **5. Friends of Cammo website [www.friendsofcammo.org](http://www.friendsofcammo.org)**

This had been covered by the demonstration before the meeting. Payment for the website hosting and domain name was made, so it is now accessible to the general public.

### **6. Membership update (Shay Dean)**

Shay reported that during the year to March we gained 46 new members, taking the total to 182 households, of whom 17 have not paid and will now be removed from the membership list. 118 members have signed up to Gift Aid for their subs and donations. To help attract new members a box of forms has been installed near the gate and Shay has distributed forms to Barntongate and East Craigs.

### **7. Treasurer's update (Lynn Whitehead)**

Lynn had nothing further to report after the end of 2018.

### **8. Environmental update (Nick Bengé)**

Nick reported that the park looks good. The bee enclosure has been moved to the Walled Garden and the hive will be installed in April; the bee group now has 12 members. The field areas have been prepared for wildflower planting on 28<sup>th</sup> April. Trees have been mulched. The canal is now doing well.

In response to a comment, it was agreed to ask for further improvements to the new path through the hedgerow into North Field. Nick said that the first two wildflower areas had used a mix of seed sources, and later ones had used Mavisbank mix from Scotia Seeds.

### **9. Forestry & Natural Heritage Service report (David Kyles)**

David had sent a copy of his report written for the Cammo Estate Advisory Committee meeting in February. Most items were covered elsewhere on the agenda; the following items were noted.

The problems of anti-social behaviour seem to have been greatly reduced after a strong police intervention. The pineapple sculptures are to be reattached more securely to the Pinetum wall. The offer of help to install raptor boxes has been taken up. The forest kindergarten lease has been extended to June. The Council are intending to introduce a donation scheme for car parking.

### **10. Cammo Estate Regeneration (Simon Gillam and Nick Bengé)**

The field wildflower project led by Nick is being funded by Cammo Home Farm money.

David Kyles is leading on priority projects to improve the boundaries (walls and fences) and some paths, and create a new car park next North Gate, seeking grants to supplement Cammo Home Farm money.

A working group of Peter Scott (Community Council), Susan Dickson (Council FNH) and Simon Gillam (FoC) has drafted an Orientation and Interpretation strategy, seeking comments by end-March.

The top priorities are 6 fingerposts, waymarking for 3 self-guided walks and an interpretation panel for Cammo House. Two other interpretation panels have also been drafted, but are on hold until after a workshop. Crowd funding will be sought through MyPark Scotland for part of the cost of the Cammo House panel.

The Council are intending to submit a grant application for a large project in the Walled Garden, with the main cost being the repair of walls.

### **11. Planning Matters (Simon Gillam)**

In December we had hosted an exhibition by the Community Council about the revised Cammo Fields housing application and the PAN for land north of Craigs Road. We had posted on Facebook and emailed members to draw attention to the opportunity to comment on these developments, a proposed development at Craigiehall and proposals to demolish Dowie's Mill weir. The Committee had sent comments to the consultants for land north of Craigs Road, opposing it for similar reasons to Cammo Fields, but with an even worse impact on views to and from Cammo. Friends of Cammo had already commented on the Cammo Fields application and had nothing to add. No comments were submitted for the other proposals.

### **12. Any Other Business**

- a) Esther and Shay reported on EAFS investigations of the ruins behind the stables. They have found high quality flagged floors, tools and domestic material. The building seems to have been altered several times, and it may have become Cammo Cottage occupied by an ex-cook in 1911. Over 150 visitors visited the exhibition stand during the open weekend of 2-3 March, and a post on Facebook has requested Cammo memories.
- b) In place of a BBQ, there will be a Picnic in the Park on Sunday 11 August. There will be a similar range of live music. Participants will bring their own food and mats to sit on, so the financial commitment is much reduced. An entry charge will cover a cake and a drink. There will be many stalls and more are being sought. Judy will organise children's races. Further details to be announced soon.
- c) Friends of Cammo will soon publish a new edition of the Pinetum booklet, and also a third self-guided walk leaflet, for a nature walk devised by Nick.

**Simon Gillam**  
**Secretary**  
**Friends of Cammo**