



## **Minutes of Friends of Cammo General Meeting held in Cammo Lodge on 4th March 2026**

Present: Michael Roe (Chairperson), Simon Gillam (Secretary), Lynn Whitehead (Treasurer), Barbara Braham, Thornton White, John Jeffrey, Grahame Whitehead, Katherine Thomson, Sheena McRobie, Jayne MacGregor, Rhona Paterson, Peter Scott, Douglas Adamson, Judy Arrowsmith, Euan Drysdale, Ewen Harley, Paul Kerr.

**Apologies:** Harry Taylor, Carol Smith, Liz Drysdale.

### **Annual General Meeting**

**1. Last AGM and matters arising:** No comments or matters arising.

**2. Annual Report and Accounts:** Lynn reported that the Report & Accounts is on our website, and have been lodged with the charities regulator OSCR. The financial highlights were that Friends of Cammo had General Funds of £6,901 at 31 December 2025 an increase of £773 over the year, Restricted Funds were unchanged at £215 to be spent on information panels, so we had £7,116 in the bank at the year-end. Receipts were £4,791, up £877 on the previous year, helped by a grant of £1,145 from Edinburgh Council which was spent on planting wildflowers and fruit plants in the walled garden. Payments were £4,018, up £851 on the previous year, mainly as a result of expenditure on the walled garden project. Our finances continue to be in a satisfactory condition. Simon read out the Review of Activities from the Report, and Thornton commented that the well in the Walled Garden is still dry.

**3. Election of Office Bearers and Committee:** Michael, Simon and Lynn were willing to continue as Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary. Barbara and Thornton were willing to continue as committee members. John had been co-opted to the committee and was now proposed for election, proposed by Sheena and seconded by Rhona. There were no other proposals so all were declared elected. Michael said that Lynn had given notice that she would be stepping down in March 2027 and we were now seeking a replacement to ensure a smooth handover.

**4. Date and time of next AGM:** Agreed Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2027 at 7.30 pm at the Lodge.

### **Other business**

**5. Membership update:** Simon reported that at the end of the membership year we removed 42 members who had not renewed and not responded to our emails. This gave a total of 46 memberships ended in the year and 28 new members, and a total of 253 members at end-year. Barbara then took on responsibility for maintaining the membership records. Barbara reported that in her first month we had 2 new members and 1 rejoined, giving a total of 256. In addition, 6 people paid in 2025 but did not complete a membership form nor provide contact details, so could not be registered as members.

Simon reported that free use of Mailchimp, which we use for email updates to members about monthly, has ended for users with over 250 contacts, so we have signed up to a monthly plan costing around £12/month.

**6. Treasurer's update:** Lynn reported that so far there have been no major receipts or payments since the year-end. We have again received £50 donation from ESOC, following their orienteering event at Cammo. Jayne said that the event had gone well and that the Lodge cleaner had been helpful.

**7. Environmental Update:** Thornton reported that the bird boxes (40) have all been checked and cleaned, paths have been cleared, wildflower meadows cut and 12 goat willow cuttings planted. We have wildflower seed to sow, locations not yet decided. Work is needed to reduce reeds in the wetland and to repair some of the small waterfalls in the stream (it was noted that ducks are back). The WhatsApp group now has over 20 volunteers and is going well.

We have not put down any new woodchip, eg on muddy field entrances, and will review whether some may be desirable. It was suggested that we also consider adding gravel and whin dust to paths, and that we investigate where field drains are in Home Field.

TCV (The Conservation Volunteers) are doing hedge laying in SW Meadow, to follow on from their trials of wildflower establishment in South Field and partial cutting of SW Meadow. We are getting 13 bird boxes (robin and wren) from Cramond Brownies and bat and bird boxes from Blackhall Brownies; some can be made available to Friends of Lauriston Castle. We have received an offer from Cramond Scouts to help with tree planting and other work after Easter.

Anyone interested in taking on bumblebee or butterfly monitoring should contact Michael. We are again receiving assistance with pruning the orchard, first session to be on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm.

**8. Cammo Management Group:** Simon reported that the last meeting had been in January with the next meeting to be held in late March. Forest Kindergarten and Forest Schools had not been able to attend any meeting since May. The only recent progress has been the start of Council cleaning for the Lodge toilets, later extended to cleaning the floor of the main room. A cupboard for the cleaners will be installed in a corner of the main room, with the archaeological display being moved along the wall. A question was asked as to why Forest Kindergarten needs so much space in the Lodge, when they have the pods near north car park; we don't know what use is made of the pods.

Among the outstanding items are additional storage for Friends of Cammo, power supply for Leaf & Bean, fencing off the former Leaf & Bean area, a requested meeting about the Pinetum, cleaning of graffiti at the Stables, Lease Agreements and a response on our proposed Action Plan for Cammo.

The Council had confirmed that the map designed for the new map boards, based on work by Peter and Simon, was being treated as copyrighted by the designer, so any use for other purposes (eg walk leaflets) would require a payment and use of the designer to make any modifications. We still had not been told the cost, and may decide instead to continue with our own maps. Jayne offered the ESOC orienteering map of Cammo to help.

**9. Archaeology report:** No report had been received from EAFS. They had reported to CMG that in 2026 their work would focus on the extensive ruins in the middle of the Walled Garden. They had provided a note of rose varieties previously grown at Cammo, which could be included in the Victorian garden.

## **10. Any Other Business**

- Simon reported that he had drafted a notice about the golf course at Cammo, to display on rollers opposite the site of the former clubhouse, to include a QR code to link to more information on our website. Jayne offered help with the QR code.
- Lynn reported that she had an offer to assist in drawing up a plan for the Victorian garden, which had now been dug over twice, aiming for planting May/June, to include bee/butterfly friendly plants, not poisonous ones as favoured in some Victorian gardens. Funding will come from two companies that will be providing groups of corporate volunteers.
- A danger had been identified by Lynn at NW corner of Cammo, where a desire line path goes close to the top of a wall, from where kids or dogs could get onto the road; this has been reported to the Council but no action yet.

- Two abandoned quad bikes had been seen one Saturday morning, in the ditch of the marsh area south-west of the canal. This had been reported to police, who attended.
- The River Almond Walkway path emerging near the NE corner of Cammo has been closed for several weeks, for repair to a boundary falling over the path. Euan said that this path will also be improved by new sleepers for steps.
- An annual inspection had identified a problem at the Stables needing repair. In response the Stables has been surrounded by Heras fencing but we have no news on when the repair may be done.
- Sheena reported that the Heras fencing had been removed from south car park, more than a year after it had been left by the stonemasons.

Dates for the next Ordinary General Meetings – Wednesdays 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2<sup>nd</sup> September and 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

Thanks were expressed to Lynn and Grahame for providing the refreshments.

**Meeting Closed**

**Friends of Cammo**

**March 2026**