



## **Minutes of Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 in Cammo Lodge at 19.30**

**Present:** Simon Gillam (Secretary), Lynn Whitehead (Treasurer), Nick Benge (Environmental Project Manager), Shay Dean (Membership Secretary), Sheena McRobie, Michael Roe, Peter Scott, Marian Allen, Grahame Whitehead, Fiona Briglmen, Marcel Crolla, Carol Campbell.

**Apologies:** David Kyles (Forestry & Natural Heritage Service), Cllr Graham Hutchison, Cllr Louise Young, Rachel Stewart, Esther Davidson, Katherine Thomson. Ang Geddes had resigned as Chair, so Nick chaired the meeting.

### **Annual General Meeting**

#### **1. Minutes of AGM held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the 2017 AGM were approved. All matters arising would be covered later in the agenda.

#### **2. Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for 2017**

A copy of the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts, which has been submitted to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), is being sent to members with the minutes of this meeting. Nick read out the main points from the Review of Activities. Lynn read out the Financial Review of 2017, which showed a balance at end-December 2017 of £3155 general funds and £594 restricted funds (grant money to be spent).

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

Ang Geddes had resigned as Chair at end-January 2018. Nick was proposed to become Chairman, proposed by Simon and seconded by Peter, and was elected. Lynn and Simon were willing to continue as Treasurer and Secretary; they were both proposed by Nick and seconded by Sheena and elected.

Shay was willing to continue as committee member, proposed by Simon and seconded by Marian. Michael Roe and Marcel Crolla were willing to join the committee, proposed by Nick and seconded by Lynn. There were no other candidates and all three were elected.

#### **4. Date and time of 2019 AGM**

It was agreed that the next AGM will be on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 7.30, Cammo Lodge.

### **Other business**

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

Shay reported that during the year to March we gained 16 new members and lost 5. Current membership is 163 households, of which 33 have not paid. Those who have not paid will be removed from the

membership list after the AGM, but will be placed on a list who may be contacted to see if they wish to rejoin.

Shay had contacted Royal High School to explore the possibility of their pupils helping us create a website for Friends of Cammo. There had been a favourable response and this would be taken forward later in March.

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

Lynn reported that since end-2017 we had spent the remaining £493 of Baillie Gifford grant on bird boxes.

## **7. Environmental update and plans for 2018-19 (Nick Benge)**

Nick reported that most environmental aspects of the park are doing well. The canal is thriving with frogs, toads, sticklebacks, kingfisher and plants. There had been a good response to the work party to install mesh guards to prevent deer damage in West Field.

Unfortunately the bee colony has died. There had been a viral infection, but it was thought that the main problem was the exposed location. The beekeepers do not wish to try again, but it is hoped that we can draw on other expertise, and review what to do next. It may be best to try in the Walled Garden, but further from visitors.

Michael thanked Nick for hosting a visit by the Royal Burgess environmental committee, who are seeking to improve environmental management of their golf course.

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

David had sent a draft of his report written for the Cammo Estate Advisory Committee meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March, to serve as his report. Most items were covered elsewhere on the agenda; the following items were noted and/or discussed here.

Problems related to the new house on the Cammo Home Farm site were noted. Nick reported that tree planting would extend 7m from the boundary into the Estate.

The work around the trees in the Pinetum and the removal of spikes and post & wire were noted with approval. The forthcoming work on the boundary wall with the golf course, paths and drainage, burn clearance and Pinetum sculptures were also noted with approval.

The postponement of interpretation work should not affect the planned hedgerow interpretation panel. The proposed design had been submitted, but no response received yet; this should be followed up.

The Bioblitz by Edinburgh Natural History Society to record data at Cammo was welcomed; Nick reported that it would be on 17<sup>th</sup> July.

## **9. Heritage Lottery Fund bid (Nick Benge)**

Friends of Cammo had submitted comments on the options presented in the second public consultation; a copy of these comments is being sent to members with the minutes of this meeting. The Community Council and Peter Scott had submitted comments along similar lines. The consultants are now drafting a masterplan, taking account of comments received, and this will be the subject of further consultation

The Parks for All strand of HLF Funding has ended, so Edinburgh Council must decide whether to continue to plan for a large project, which would have to compete with a wider range of other projects,

or whether to go for a number of smaller funding sources. Whichever approach is adopted, it will still be valuable to have an agreed masterplan.

#### **10. Any Other Business (including plans for BBQ and planning matters)**

The BBQ committee has selected Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August as the date.

The Cammo Fields planning application is now expected to be submitted in April. Nick and Lynn had met their consultants to discuss possibilities for the Bughtlin Burn flood plain which cannot be built on. Earlier suggestions that the developers may help with improved parking for Cammo Estate now seem to have fallen through. There has been no recent news on the other nearby developments (Maybury / Turnhouse).

Two new Self-Guided walks leaflets, based on Harry Taylor's booklet, have now been printed and are on sale at the Lodge, price £1 each. Clark Whitehead was thanked for helping with the maps.

It is still planned to have a talk about bees at the next meeting, on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June.

Lynn was thanked for providing drinks and nibbles for the meeting. The meeting recorded its thanks to Joanna Morris for organising staffing of the Lodge on Sundays, and to all the volunteers who helped at the Lodge.

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