



Minutes of Meeting held on 4th March 2020 in Cammo Lodge at 19.30

Present: Nick Bengé (Chairperson), Simon Gillam (Secretary), Lynn Whitehead (Treasurer), Shay Dean (Membership Secretary), Michael Roe, Carol Turnbull, Gill Harris, Harry Taylor, Sheena McRobie, Karen Edwards, Grahame Whitehead, Euan Drysdale, Dorothy Lyle, Judy Arrowsmith, Stuart Leckie.

Apologies: David Kyles (Forestry & Natural Heritage Service), Callum Towns, Katherine Thomson, Esther Davidson, RG (Bert) Scott, Peter Scott, Marian Allen, Liz Drysdale, Rachel Stewart, Martyn Hawthorn, Ian Rodger, Fiona Briglmen.

Annual General Meeting

1. Minutes of AGM held on 6th March 2019 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the 2019 AGM were approved. It was noted that the QR code for the website included in the minutes had been changed later, and that it had been agreed to change meetings back to Wednesdays including changing this 2020 AGM. All other matters arising would be covered later in the agenda.

2. Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for 2019

The Trustees Annual Report and Accounts had been approved by the committee and our independent examiner, submitted to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) and posted on our website. It reported our achievements in 2019 and reviewed our financial position. At the end of 2019 we had £2860 in general funds and £945 in restricted funds (donations for information panels).

3. Election of Officer Bearers and Committee

Shay had indicated that she wished to step down as Minutes Secretary and she was thanked for her work. Karen Edwards volunteered to join the Committee to take on this role, proposed by Shay, seconded by Euan. The three office bearers (Nick, Simon and Lynn) and other Committee member (Michael) were willing to continue, and were proposed by Euan seconded by Sheena. There were no other candidates, so all five were elected. The other Committee vacancy can be filled by co-option during the year if there is a suitable candidate.

4. Date and time of 2021 AGM

It was agreed that the next AGM will be on Wednesday 3rd March 2021, 7.30, Cammo Lodge.

Other business

5. Membership update (Shay Dean)

Shay reported that at 14 February we had paid 171 members, including 23 new members in the current membership year. 24 others had still not renewed after recent reminders but it is hoped that a few of these may continue. 141 members had signed up for gift aid.

6. Treasurer's update (Lynn Whitehead)

Further to the accounts for 2019, it was noted that a total of £526 had been received in gift aid on subscriptions and donations, a valuable addition to our funds. Lynn reported that the overall financial

situation remains satisfactory. Lynn was thanked for cleaning the Lodge for the meeting and for providing drinks.

7. Environmental update (Nick Bengé)

Nick reported that recent progress included the hedgerow planting in South Field for which we had a very good turnout of volunteers, additional planting round the new north car park and some holly next to the new south fence. An Edinburgh University group had helped with continuing distribution of woodchip, deadwood and brash, including blocking some unwanted desire line routes through woodland. The bees are doing well. We had received a donation of £250 as a carbon offset for air travel, and it was agreed that we should promote this more widely as we can ensure that trees are planted and maintained. Wildlife sightings included heron, kingfisher, ducks, woodpeckers, ring-necked parakeet and albino squirrels. A replacement tawny owl box had been put up, also 2 barn owl boxes.

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

David had provided a copy of his report to the Cammo Estate Advisory Committee meeting. Most matters are covered elsewhere on our agenda. Drainage work is planned for Low Meadow and to the rear of West Park, and some work is required at the entrance to the new north car park. The forest kindergarten had issued further information about the planned base near the north car park.

9. Archaeology report

Esther had provided a report on the activities of Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society (EAFS) at Cammo. They have continued weekly digs when weather permits, completing work at the ruin behind the stables (offices / Cammo Cottage) and moving on to the second ruin. Reports and pictures of the finds are posted on our Facebook page after each week's work. EAFS offer to give a talk at a Friends of Cammo meeting.

10. Cammo Regeneration (Nick Bengé and Simon Gillam)

Nick reported that the phase one work was now nearly complete, including boundary wall repairs (a larger wall repair would be in phase two); the total cost of phase one including paths, car park and boundary work was around £75,000 from Cammo Home Farm money. David Kyles had agreed that phase two should include the wetland proposal in South Field in summer 2020 or 2021 and a small project in the Walled Garden as proposed. In addition, work would be required to make the stables safe, and something needed to be done at the ruins behind the stables uncovered by EAFS.

11. Interpretation and Orientation (Simon Gillam)

In phase one the only progress in recent months is that the hedgerow interpretation panel is now being produced by external contractors. The panel for the Story of Cammo House will be taken forward with an external designer. The fingerposts have been procured and are awaiting installation, with waymarking for three self-guided walks to follow. For phase two the priorities are still as described and agreed at the December meeting. It was suggested that some of the trees that are fallen/felled could be sculpted.

12. Planning Matters (Nick Bengé and Simon Gillam)

- Regarding the Cammo Fields development, Nick reported that the Bughtlin Burn had been affected by run-off from the site, and there will be an obstruction on Cammo Walk for work starting soon but access to our south car park will still be possible.
- The City Mobility Plan and City Plan 2030 (new Local Development Plan) are now open for consultation, until late March. Friends of Cammo will comment on aspects that affect Cammo Estate directly or indirectly and others were encouraged to comment individually. Simon indicated the aspects on which we plan to comment and these were agreed by the meeting. Our comments will be copied to our Facebook/website when complete. The City Plan 2030 is structured into 16 choices and we plan to comment in Choice 1 on the importance of very large green spaces like Cammo, in Choice 7 about desire for an additional Park & Ride for the A90 corridor, in Choice 8 supporting the extension of the River Almond Walkway to Kirkliston and seeking more clarity on cycle/footpath links from Barnton to

the A8 corridor, in Choice 12 supporting more development on urban land rather than greenfield, addressing the impact of the proposed additional urban development sites near Maybury and “Crosswinds” and emphasising the conclusion that there should be no development on Cammo Estate or Cammo Southern Parklands (the fields north of Craigs Road) and in Choice 14 agreeing that the plans should take into account a West Edinburgh Study but that its findings should be interpreted in consultation with local communities. The City Mobility Plan overlaps to some extent with City Plan 2030, and our comments will be related to actions to (a) reduce car and freight traffic on Maybury Road and related congestion, (b) improve cycle and foot access to Cammo Estate from existing areas of housing and new developments and (c) clarify the future of Cammo Walk and Cammo Road, which are important links to the south from Cammo, but also potential rat-runs to avoid Maybury Road congestion.

13. Any Other Business

- In place of the BBQ/Funday, there will be a “Wilderness Disco” at Turnhouse golf club on 20th November, marking the 40th anniversary of Cammo being called a Wilderness Park when adopted by the Council.
- The latest proposals for the Salvesen steps on the River Almond Walkway would involve raising it further above the river to reduce flood risk, but with a great increase in cost. Future progress is uncertain.
- An email had been received from a visitor to Cammo who had fallen and broken her arm after being jumped on by dogs. Nick will put up Cammo posters urging dog walkers to control their dogs. Lynn will write to express sympathy. The incident was also notified to David Kyles.

Simon Gillam
Secretary
Friends of Cammo