



Registered Scottish Charity No. SC033394

Minutes of Meeting held on 5th December 2018 in Cammo Lodge at 19.30

Present: Nick Benge (Chair), Simon Gillam (Secretary), Lynn Whitehead (Treasurer), Shay Dean (Membership Secretary), Grahame Whitehead, Michael Roe, Peter Scott, Marian Allen, Sheena McRobie, Martyn Hawthorn, Rachel Stewart, Judy Arrowsmith, Karen Edwards, Katherine Thomson, Carol Turnbull, Eileen Nicoll, Glenn Stewart, Rona Stewart, Harry Taylor, Simon Baillie, David Wallis, Rachel Doughty.

Apologies: David Kyles (Forestry & Natural Heritage Service), Liz & Euan Drysdale, Fiona Briglmen.

Minutes of the meeting held on 5th September were approved. Lynn and Grahame were thanked for providing refreshments of mulled wine, mince pies, etc.

1. Membership Secretary's Update: Shay reported that membership is 177 households, of whom 17 have not yet paid annual subscriptions. 154 have provided Data Protection consents and 114 Gift Aid. There are 41 new members in this year, coming in steadily thanks to membership forms being delivered to Barntongate and East Craigs, and a wooden dispenser near the main gate.

2. Treasurer's Update: Lynn reported that the balance is £3153 in general funds, including £272 received from our Gift Aid claim. We should break even on general funds this year, despite the £517 loss on the cancelled BBQ and extra insurance costs of £295; this is a satisfactory outcome.

3. Environmental Update:

- a. Nick reported that things are mostly going well. There is still no inflow to the Canal and the outlet is leaking, so the water level is low. The fields had been cut, causing damage to one wildflower bank.
- b. We will try again to establish honey bees in Cammo. Rachel Doughty is providing one or two hives and bees. A site has been selected in the walled garden, and fencing will be moved to it. Volunteers are being sought to join a bee group.

4. Forestry & Natural Heritage Service Report: David Kyles had provided a copy of the report that he produced for CEAC in November. Simon spoke about the main points:

- a. David reported problems in liaising with the owner of the house on the Cammo Home Farm site about various issues.
- b. Council environmental wardens are to cease patrols at Cammo, as they had not found dog fouling to be a serious problem at Cammo.
- c. The Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society has investigated areas at the rear of Cammo house and will soon move focus to the ruined offices behind the stables.
- d. A Forest Kindergarten group started using Cammo Estate in the mornings from late November and another group will soon start in the afternoon.

5. Cammo Estate Regeneration: Simon reported that the Council had now put the proposed Heritage Lottery Fund bid for the Walled Garden on hold, and had instead agreed to address priorities from the draft Cammo Estate Regeneration Plan. This will use some of the Cammo Home Farm money and

additional funding will be sought. The agreed priorities for the coming year are some of those discussed at our September meeting: repairs to boundary walls and fences, improvements to paths, a small north car park, interpretation boards and waymarking. Nick is also looking into environmental improvements to the fields and a possible wetland area. A limited expansion of the south car park will be considered later.

6. Planning applications: Simon reported that a display on major planning applications will be hosted at Cammo Lodge on Sunday 9 December, and will also be at Cramond Kirk Hall on 20 December. This will include a revised planning application for the Cammo fields site and a new pre-application consultation on a site north of Craigs Road. The Committee will submit comments on aspects affecting Cammo Estate and members are invited to comment too. Peter said that the Community Council would like to receive copies of comments so that they are more aware of local views.

7. Dates of meetings in 2019: It was agreed to switch meeting dates from Wednesdays to Tuesdays, starting with the meeting in June, so dates are Wednesday 6 March (AGM), Tuesday 4th June, Tuesday 3rd September and Tuesday 3rd December.

8. Any Other Business:

- a. Sheena reported that the Bughtlin Burn is blocked and the water level rises after heavy rain. Nick said that we would deal with the problems rather than report it to the Council.
- b. A second edition of “The Private World of Cammo” by Simon Baillie is being published in January, much larger than the first edition published in 1995.
- c. A prototype of the new website for Friends of Cammo being developed by Royal High School pupils has been shown to the Committee and looks good. We hope to launch the site in late January.
- d. Esther Davidson, who has volunteered on many projects at Cammo, has suffered poor health in the past year. She received a long-awaited liver transplant last week and best wishes were expressed for her recovery.

9. Illustrated talk: Nick gave an illustrated talk on changes at Cammo, including many photos of wildlife.

Simon Gillam
Secretary
Friends of Cammo