



Minutes of Meeting held on 4th June 2019 in Cammo Lodge at 19.30

Present: Simon Gillam (Secretary), Shay Dean (Membership Secretary), Sheena McRobie, Esther Davidson, Rachel Doughty, Karen Edwards.

Apologies: Nick Benge (Chairperson), Lynn Whitehead (Treasurer), David Kyles (Forestry & Natural Heritage Service), Grahame Whitehead, Cllr Graham Hutchison, Michael Roe, Ian Rodger, Rachel Stewart, Martyn Hawthorn, Harry Taylor, Douglas Seale, Cath Gillies, Judy Arrowsmith, Katherine Thomson, Carol Turnbull and Sally Macpherson. In the absence of Nick, Simon chaired the meeting.

Approval of previous minutes: Minutes were approved for the meeting held on 5th December 2018 and the non-AGM part of the meeting held on 6th March 2019.

1. Membership update (Shay Dean)

Shay reported that as at 31 May we have 181 members of whom 102 have renewed. 131 members have signed up to Gift Aid for their subs and donations. In the current membership year we have 10 new members and have lost one.

2. Treasurer's update (Lynn Whitehead)

Lynn had provided a report that we have around £2700 in the bank, having started the year with around £3200. The main items of expenditure have been £563 on an outstanding invoice for wildflower, £786 on building the new bee enclosure and buying protective suits and £389 on setting up the website including 2 years hosting. The figures do not yet include income from crowd-funding donations for the Story of Cammo House panel.

3. Environmental update (Nick Benge)

Nick had provided a report that the young trees are all doing well except that there has been particularly large numbers of leaf weevils this year which have almost completely defoliated some of the oaks. Luckily there are flocks of starlings and jackdaws trying to munch their way through the weevils which has helped.

Recently Nick has seen a barn owl in the fields (also seen by Sheena) and the roe deer are always around. The frogs and toads spawned well this year so our amphibian population will be rising again. The wildflower areas are all beginning to flower again and we have had huge amounts of hawthorn blossom.

4. Cammo Regeneration

Nick had provided a report that the April 28th wildflower planting was a huge success with about 60 people taking part and over 1200 wildflower plugs put in. Species were knapweed, ox-eye daisy, cowslip and scabious. Another planting is planned in the autumn as well as a big

hedgerow along one of the desire line paths across North field. Nick is also still working on the wetland idea.

David Kyles has drawn up specifications for priority projects to improve the boundaries (walls and fences) and some paths, and create a new car park next North Gate. To supplement Cammo Home Farm money, a WREN grant application had been submitted. 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.

5. Interpretation and Orientation (Simon Gillam)

Crowd funding donations of £265 had been received through MyParkScotland and direct, for part of the cost of the Story of Cammo House panel. This will now be taken forward, along with 6 fingerposts and waymarking for 3 self-guided walks. Other interpretation is on hold until a workshop to discuss new approaches, expected to be held in July.

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

David had provided a draft of his report written for the Cammo Estate Advisory Committee meeting to be held on 12 June. Most items were covered elsewhere on the agenda; the following items were noted:

- Anti-social behaviour still being encountered but less frequently over this period. Please report instances to Forestry and Natural Heritage and/or Police Scotland 101.
- Redundant post and wire fence removal (ongoing). Pinetum sculptures re-attached, east bridge pier repaired.
- Forest Kindergarten: After successful pilot periods throughout several parks in Edinburgh including Cammo, Forest Kindergarten will become long term features within Edinburgh parks. Streamlining the processes for access/ drop-off/collection, lunch provision, materials and storage, welfare etc. has been discussed and a decision to provide better more secure facilities has been agreed. To this end, bespoke units are being constructed that will consist of secure storage, welfare and shelter and are to be located within good logistical access of entrance points to sites and areas being used for activity. The units do not require services to be connected but will include facilities such as a log burning stove and compost toilets that will be required to be serviced. The units are to be painted or clad in materials suitable to the environment and setting and will require planning permission. We have insisted on some kind of landscaping surrounding the units. [This is planned to be at the new north car park.]

7. Archaeology report (Esther Davidson)

The latest Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society (EAFS) newsletter had reported on work exploring the ruin behind the stables, called Cammo Cottage in the 1911 Census. The text and photos from this had been posted on FoC Facebook. A plan showing the layout of rooms and trenches will be added.

8. Funday Sunday – 11th August

A poster for the event on Sunday 11th August had been put on Facebook and included with the agenda for this meeting. A note from Nick said that the basic idea is for people to bring a picnic and we will provide the live bands, cakes and lots of stalls with games etc. We have around 20 stalls that people have agreed to do – things like golf putting, splat the rat, ping pong balls into jars, guess the birthday of the toy, pin the tail on the donkey etc. If anyone else would like to do a stall then get in touch with Nick.

9. Housing Developments (Simon Gillam)

The Cammo Fields housing application had been approved by the Council committee on 22 May, so will now go ahead. Efforts should now turn to engagement with the developers to enhance positive aspects such as greenspace by the burn and access on foot to Cammo Estate, with continued pressure on the Council about traffic and wider impacts of the developments.

An additional public exhibition had been held at short notice for the PAN for land north of Craigs Road. We have now received a copy of the displays, including a new board showing a possible housing layout for a large part of the site; the Committee will send further comments opposing the development.

10. Any Other Business

- a) A third self-guided walk leaflet themed on nature has been produced, mostly written by Nick. A third edition of the Pinetum booklet has been produced. Both are on sale at the Lodge.
- b) It was noted that a pile of full poo-bags had been left beside the NE entrance, where there is no bin. Discarded poo-bags are a problem that need to be addressed.

11. Illustrated Talk – Cammo Bees

Rachel had prepared an illustrated talk on bees, to mark the reintroduction of a beehive to Cammo, led by Rachel and supported by a bee group. In view of the small numbers at this meeting, it was agreed to postpone the talk to a later meeting. The bees are doing well and the bee group providing good support. June will be a critical month because of the lack of forage.

Simon Gillam
Secretary
Friends of Cammo