



Minutes of Meeting held on 3rd September 2019 in Cammo Lodge at 19.30

Present: Nick Benge (Chairperson), Simon Gillam (Secretary), Lynn Whitehead (Treasurer), Michael Roe, Sheena McRobie, Esther Davidson, Norma Smith, Lyn Campbell, RG Scott, Lorraine & George Baxter, Peter Scott, Marian Allen, Roger Buchanan, Barbara Braham, Judy Arrowsmith, Katherine Thomson, Karen Edwards, Fiona Briglmen, Grahame Whitehead.

Apologies: Shay Dean (Membership Secretary), David Kyles (Forestry & Natural Heritage Service), Rachel Stewart, Liz & Euan Drysdale, Rona & Glenn Stewart, Martyn Hawthorn, Harry Taylor, Carol Turnbull and Rachel Doughty.

Illustrated talk: Nick announced that the planned talk on bees would be postponed to a later meeting, and instead he would give a short illustrated talk on wetlands.

1. Membership update (Shay Dean)

Shay had provided an update that at 16 August we had 191 members of whom 56 had not yet renewed. In the current membership year we have 20 new members and have lost one. Reminders will be sent soon to those who have not renewed.

2. Treasurer's update (Lynn Whitehead)

Lynn reported that we have £2774 in the bank. Subs and donations are similar to this time last year. The balance now includes £295 income from crowd-funding donations for the Story of Cammo House panel. We lost £66 on the cancelled Funday from the cost of flyers. The overall financial situation is satisfactory.

3. Environmental update (Nick Benge)

Nick reported that: We are receiving deadwood from tree surgeons, to enhance biodiversity. A second bee hive was brought in, but that colony has been wiped out by wasps. Butterflies have been doing very well this year. The wildflowers planted in April are doing well. Proposed projects are a hedgerow in North Field and more wildflower planting.

4. Cammo Regeneration (Nick Benge)

Nick reported that work has started on the new car park next North Gate. He had circulated a plan for it produced by David Kyles, but some changes would be desirable and contractors may not follow the plan, so he will arrange a site visit with David to check what is being done. In the coming weeks the contractors will also work on boundary fencing and minor boundary wall repairs, and on path improvements.

5. Interpretation and Orientation (Simon Gillam)

Interpretation panels for Hedgerows and for the Story of Cammo House have been designed and are being taken forward by Susan Dickson with the Council's design team. These, along with 6 fingerposts and waymarking for 3 self-guided walks, should be in place this year, funded from

the Home Farm capital and the crowd-funding for the Cammo House panel. Other interpretation was put on hold until a workshop, postponed from July to 2 September. This workshop brainstormed what messages we want to communicate, looked at approaches elsewhere and discussed various new approaches, limited to on-site possibilities (not online). The results and recommendations when received will be considered by Susan Dickson and others on the working group (Peter and Simon).

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

David provided a brief summary of some current issues. Items not covered elsewhere on the agenda included: Torched fly-tipped waste has been cleared from the car park and the height-restriction barrier is to be fixed. Forest Kindergarten resumed on 2 September and will be based later at the new north car park. The SW meadow was cut early; future cuts of meadows and fields should not be before October. A traditional metal seat is proposed as a memorial at the top of Home Field and similar seats are likely in the coming years. Bughtlin burn debris requires clearance. Green team volunteers will be at Cammo on 8 September. Field margin trees lost and likely to remain: dead oak at foot of North Field and fallen poplar at the top of South Field. Since the report, a large beech has fallen between Larch Tree Meadow and Walled Garden.

The meeting expressed concern about the plans for metal seats, acknowledged as being inconsistent with other seating at Cammo. It was recommended that David delay any action, as there will soon be proposals for seating as part of the interpretation proposals, which could identify different types of seat that could be better. If a metal seat has to be installed earlier, it would be better to be near the Lodge rather than in the middle of the park.

7. Archaeology report

Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society (EAFS) had provided an advance copy of their latest update. Based on emerging evidence, it provided an interesting story about the occupant of Cammo Cottage, part of the ruin behind the stables. EAFS are continuing work on this site each Monday in September. There is still more to find at this site, before the investigations move to the other ruin.

8. Any Other Business

- a) There was some discussion of the proposed hedgerow in North Field. It was agreed to review the proposal, to see whether it could be changed to address some of the concerns.
- b) Various issues with dogs had been raised with the Committee, and will be considered at their next meeting in early November. In sending out the minutes of this meeting, Simon will ask members for any suggestions.
- c) Concern was expressed about cars parked at the corners outside the main gate.

9. Illustrated Talk – Wetlands

A wetland in South Field had been proposed as part of Cammo Regeneration. Nick showed pictures of the proposed site when flooded, described how it could be fed by the canal outflow, said that it would be very shallow and be full of plants so there is little open water, and it would have a boardwalk. He also showed pictures of wetland areas with boardwalks at other sites, newly built and how they developed over years.

Simon Gillam
Secretary
Friends of Cammo