



## **Minutes of Friends of Cammo General Meeting held in Cammo Lodge on 3rd June 2026**

Present: Simon Gillam (Secretary), Lynn Whitehead (Treasurer), Barbara Braham, Thornton White, Grahame Whitehead, Katherine Thomson, Sheena McRobie, Jayne MacGregor, Rhona Paterson, Peter Scott, Douglas Adamson, Euan Drysdale, Liz Drysdale. Carol Smith, Mike Young, Tahir Hafiz.

**Apologies:** Michael Roe (Chairperson), John Jeffrey, Rachel Stewart, Anne Currie, Graham Kidd. In the absence of Michael, Simon chaired the meeting and Barbara assisted with minutes.

**1. Membership update:** Barbara reported that we now have 277 members, an increase of 24 in the membership year – 20 new members and 4 rejoined after a gap in membership.

**2. Treasurer's update:** Lynn reported that General funds are £8521, up £1620 in the year. Annual subscriptions and donations are mostly received in the first half of the year and have come in at a satisfactory rate. Expenditure so far has included £179 on equipment and £154 on computer costs, with higher expenditure including Victorian garden and insurance to follow later. We still have £215 restricted funds for information panels.

**3. Walled Garden:** Lynn reported that progress on the Victorian garden had initially been slow, because of the weather and ground condition, including lots of broken glass for which EAFS had helped with disposal. Good progress had been made in the last two weeks, assisted by corporate and ESMS volunteers. To suppress weeds, cardboard covered by earth had been laid over half the area, with a membrane and earth to be put on the other half. Planting will start in September, with roses identified by EAFS as present at Cammo in Victorian times.

Other work in the walled garden reported:

- The soft fruit area and bee and butterfly garden have been partly weeded.
- The willow cuttings planted seem to be doing well.
- Tubes have been put around some saplings and other saplings planted, including crab apple, rowan and birch.
- Weeds have been cleared around plants in the prickly hedge around the bee enclosure, dead plants replaced with hawthorn (which has mostly been doing well), and small tubes put around the dog roses. Some of the holly plants have been eaten.
- Borage planted near the well has not yet been seen.

**4. Other environmental update:** Thornton reported that 18 of the 32 bird boxes have now been put up. We intend to get additional kestrel/owl boxes, of which we only have one. We are looking into possibility of getting a camera for tree with box to see young, but concerns expressed about making recordings public. Cramond Scouts had planted 60 Wych Elm and Ash saplings at the bottom of North Field. In the wetland, ducklings had been seen with ducks, but not recently, also moorhen with chick. The ducklings may have fallen prey to the heron that has been seen by the wetland.

TCV (The Conservation Volunteers) have extended their work at Cammo agreed with Council staff, cutting SW Meadow a second time, cutting additional areas in West Field behind the existing wildflower areas, and

cutting a small area at the top of Home Field; we have assisted in raking arisings from these cuts, putting them around field trees. TCV also propose to work on a hazel hedge at the back of Larch Tree Meadow.

**5. Cammo Management Group:** Simon reported that the last CMG meeting had been in April, postponed from March at Jen's request. Forest Kindergarten had again been unable to attend. Jen had hoped to have more time for Cammo matters going forward, as she had stopped working in the Pentlands, but she had now started work in SW Edinburgh parks so still had limited time for Cammo. The main recent progress has been with the wooden bridge over Bughtlin Burn, assessed as being fine underneath, so a new surface of slats has been laid. The Stables remain fenced off as dangerous while awaiting repair, also preventing any graffiti removal there.

Jen informed us that there would be a charge of around £1000 if we want to use the map designed for the new map boards, for our walk leaflets and other publications (including on-line use). The Committee decided and had informed Jen that this was far too much to pay, much more than any income from our publications, and subsidising publication to this extent would not be a good use of charitable funds. We will instead continue with our own maps, with potential assistance from the ESOC orienteering map and other sources.

A storage cabinet for cleaners has been installed in the Lodge, but is not yet in use. This has reduced EAFS to one glass cabinet for display of finds, and one of their information panels is to be remounted on the wall. No progress seen on Lease Agreements, Leaf & Bean power supply, second cabinet for FoC, nor on concerns about office key and gate key. In response to this, it was agreed that we should again make representations about the agreed second cabinet for FoC, and suggested that if there is no progress we could raise this with the Councillors.

Minutes of the Cammo Estate Advisory Committee Meeting in November 2025 have still not been seen. It had been agreed at that meeting that there should be a spring 2026 visit for CEAC members to walk round Cammo and see progress. Jen had said that she wants to organise the visit, but not yet progressed it. Simon had received a Council Diary email to CEAC members that seemed to say 26 November 2026 for next formal meeting; seeking confirmation of that.

**6. Archaeology update:** EAFS had provided a report on their recent work for the Newsletter, filling 3 pages, and asked for that to be treated as their report to this meeting. They expect to finish their work on the Walled Garden "Conservatory" in 2026 and will fill in the excavations. They are considering what to do next, In Cammo or elsewhere.

**7. Action Plan and Vision:** Friends of Cammo Committee had drafted an Action Plan for 2026 and are using it as a tool to monitor progress. It primarily shows FoC actions, but also lists expected Council, EAFS and TCV activities. A draft had been sent to Cammo Management Group, followed by an update showing progress in the first quarter, asking whether it could be the basis for an Action Plan to be agreed with Council staff and others. At the same time we had updated the 2030 Vision statement that had been prepared in 2016 and agreed with other local groups, and sent this with tracked changes to CMG. Jen had responded that Council staff were content for us to work to the plan, but they wanted to prepare a separate Action Plan covering a longer period. In response to this, it was agreed that we should make the Action Plan and updated Vision available to members as papers for the September general meeting, and we should ask Jen what progress there has been on their Action Plan.

## **8. Any Other Business**

- Simon reported that a reprinted sheet giving FoC contacts had been posted on the Lodge whiteboard and on notice boards beside map boards; Jen had not given permission for this to include a phone number. Jen had put up a new Natural Heritage Service notice giving contact information, with the only phone number being out-of-hours. Notices were still awaited from EAFS and Forest Kindergarten.

- The notice about the golf course at Cammo, including a QR code to link to more information on our website, is now displayed on the Lodge whiteboard. We are still considering how best to display the notice on rollers opposite the site of the former clubhouse.
- Several FoC members have offered to help with the ESMS visits this week and the Gate Day on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June; no other offers from those at the meeting.
- Peter drew attention to the Council's Community Grants Fund, and to grants from the Airport. Feedback after our failed application to CGF for the Victorian garden had said not to apply again for that project, noting that we have access to other funding, but we could apply for other projects. It was suggested that bird or trail cams would be a possibility.
- Peter asked about the possibility of installing an additional seat near the entrance to the Walled Garden. Simon said that this had been planned when seats were installed a few years ago, but Council staff had decided that it would be better located beside the path, past where the well is now. Lynn is planning to have a seat as part of the Victorian garden.

Dates for the next Ordinary General Meetings are Wednesdays 2<sup>nd</sup> September and 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

Thanks were expressed to Lynn and Grahame for providing the refreshments.

**Meeting Closed**

**Friends of Cammo  
June 2026**