

Committee Minutes

Cammo Estate Advisory Committee

Edinburgh, 21 February 2011

Present:-

Representing the National Trust for Scotland – George Holmes (Convener) and Christopher Cassels.

Representing the City of Edinburgh Council – Councillor Kate MacKenzie.

Also in Attendance:- Carol Smith (Cramond Association), Harry Taylor (Friends of Cammo), Alan McGregor (Pentland Hills Regional Park Manager), Jenny Hargreaves (Countryside Ranger Service Manager), David Kyles (Countryside Ranger), (Services for Communities), Lesley Price (Estate Manager, City Development) and Blair Ritchie (Committee Services).

Apologies:- Councillor Work, Keith Logie and Robin Stimson.

1 Welcome

The Convener welcomed Christopher Cassels to the Advisory Committee as the new representative for the National Trust.

2 Minute

The minute of the meeting of 22 November 2010 was approved as a correct record.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 Rosebery Estate

It was noted that a letter had been received from the Rosebery Estate stating that action would be taken in respect of the Old Grotto Bridge, which was in a poor state of repair.

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3.2 Dog Walkers

The Pentland Hills Regional Park Manager indicated that there had been a planning application from a commercial dog walker near Torphin Quarry. A member of the Advisory Committee raised the issue of “dog nurseries” and the need to be aware of “dog sitting services”.

Decision

To note the position.

4 Cammo Estate Management Plan

The Advisory Committee had previously agreed several measures in respect of the management of the estate. An update was given on the following areas.

4.1 The Re-Introduction of Grazing at Cammo Estate

The Countryside Ranger Service Manager indicated that there should be a “statement of intent” in respect of rotational grazing and this would be incorporated into the management plan. It was hoped that grazing would take place by January 2012.

A robust consultation exercise had been carried out in relation to grazing and the grazing proposals were likely to be eligible for grant funding. The Ranger Service was confident that they would be progressed. In the meantime, grass-cutting would continue to be requested to be undertaken by contractors.

Decision

To note the update given.

4.2 Ranger Report

The Countryside Ranger outlined the Ranger Report and gave an update on the following areas:

- Pinetum improvements.
- Wild flower area creation.
- A bee survey.
- Cutting back of the Laurel.
- Checking of the Farmhouse.
- Snow damage at the Lodge.
- Wildlife sightings, including buzzards, herons and bull finches.

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The Countryside Ranger explained that work on the canal was now complete with the installation of a deep sluice. This would ensure a good inflow and outflow at the canal.

Decision

To note the position.

(Reference – Cammo Estate Advisory Committee 22 November 2010 (item 3)).

5 Interpretation of the Estate

To note that there was nothing further to report at the moment.

6 Cammo Home Farm

The Advisory Committee had previously agreed that a progress report be provided.

Details were given of plans to progress the situation.

Decision

- 1) That the Estate Manager e-mail members of the Advisory Committee on progress on the Cammo Home Farm.
- 2) That a further progress report be given to a future meeting of the Advisory Committee.

(Reference – Cammo Estate Advisory Committee 22 November 2010 (item 5)).

7 Next Ten Year Plan and Work Plan

7.1 Ten Year Plan

The Advisory Committee had previously agreed various measures regarding the Ten Year Plan.

The Countryside Ranger Service Manager reported on the plan and referred to comments which had been received from various interested parties. The possibility of obtaining Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) status had been investigated but it was concluded that the estate

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was unlikely to meet the criteria for SSSI status as there was not enough scientific basis for this site.

Decision

To note the position.

7.2 Work Plan

The Countryside Ranger Service Manager reported that changes had been made to the Draft Work Plan to make it more compact and easier for members to comment on.

During discussion on this issue, the following points were made:

- This was an improvement on the previous plan.
- When would the plan be operational?
- While public consultation would take place, various aspects of the plan had already been initiated.
- The finalised plan would be published on the Council's Website which would allow members of the public to make comments.

Decision

- 1) To congratulate the Countryside Ranger Service Manager on the Work Plan.
- 2) That the Countryside Ranger Service Manager e-mail the Work Plan to members of the Advisory Committee for their comments.
- 3) To note that the Management Plan would be published on the Council's Website in due course.
- 4) That members of the Advisory Committee provide Committee Services with details of interested parties for onward transmission to the Countryside Ranger Service Manager.

(Reference – Cammo Estate Advisory Committee 22 November 2010 (item 6)).

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8 Any Other Business

8.1 National Trust

The representative from the National Trust indicated that while he would represent the Trust on the Advisory Committee at present this may change in future.

Decision

To note the position.

8.2 Flooding

The Convener indicated that attempts had been made to address flooding on the road near Cammo Estate. While it was outwith the Advisory Committee's area of responsibility, the situation would be monitored.

Decision

To note the position.

8.3 Composition of Advisory Committee

The Convener referred to the previous request to join the Advisory Committee.

Decision

- 1) That the size of the Advisory Committee should stay the same.
- 2) To note that the size and composition of the Advisory Committee had previously been officially agreed.

8.4 Publication of Minutes

Reference was made to the decision to publish the agenda and minute of the Advisory Committee on the Council's Website.

It was hoped that the publication of the minutes would help provide information for Community Councils and other interested parties.

Decision

To note that the agenda and minute of the Advisory Committee would be published on the Council's Website.

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9 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 20 June 2011 at 10.30 am.