

## Committee Minutes

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# Cammo Estate Advisory Committee

Edinburgh, 22 November 2010

### Present:-

**Representing the National Trust for Scotland** – George Holmes (Convener).

**Representing the City of Edinburgh Council** – Councillor Kate MacKenzie.

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

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

## 1 Minute

The minute of the meeting of 23 August 2010 was approved as a correct record subject to the amendment of “Five Year Plan” to “Ten Year Plan” in item 3.

## 2 Matters Arising

### 1.2 Rosebery Estate

Local residents had reported that the Grotto Bridge on the Rosebery Estate was in a poor state of repair, with weeds growing through. Consequently, the Cramond Association had written a letter to the owner of the estate to express their concerns about the state of the bridge.

### Decision

To note the position.

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## **2.2 Retirement**

The Convener reported that the representative from the National Trust had retired and a replacement had not yet been identified.

## **2.3 Professional Dog Walkers**

The Pentland Hills Regional Park Manager indicated that the issue of professional dog walkers and any possible intimidation was a difficult matter and was common to many parks and green spaces across the country. Commercial dog walkers had access rights to walk dogs providing that they follow the guidance in the Scottish Access Code. This was a national issue and there might be a more regulatory approach in future.

In response to a question on this issue, it was explained that under new legislation, the Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010, local authorities had powers to issue restrictions/ constraints on dogs that are out of control.

### **Decision**

The Pentland Hills Regional Park Manager establish how the City of Edinburgh Council was likely to exercise its powers under the Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010

## **3 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.

### **3.1 The Re-Introduction of Grazing at Cammo Estate**

A meeting had been held with the Scottish Agricultural College in July 2010 on the different options available for the re-introduction of grazing at Cammo.

There were two options to be considered.

In respect of the grass cutting in the fields, the grass had been cut, baled and removed by contractors. It was explained that an opportunity had arisen for this operation to be carried out which enabled considerable savings to be made. It had been requested that it should be repeated before the introduction of grazing cattle. However, the cutting and baling could not be guaranteed.

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**Decision**

- 1) To agree that the Advisory Committee's preferred option was for the second grazing option of rotational grazing.
- 2) That the Countryside Ranger Service Manager investigate if the grazing project was eligible for grant funding.
- 3) That the Countryside Ranger Service Manager incorporate the grazing project into the Ten Year Draft Management Plan

**3.2 Cammo Bee and Wildflower Project**

The Convener referred to the Cammo Bee and Wildflower Project and members discussed the issue of biodiversity, the design of the landscape, longevity and maintenance and the possibility of the receipt of grant funds.

**Decision**

To note that consideration would be given to incorporating a small-scale project in the Ten Year Management Plan, possibly in the West Field, away from the proposed grazing area.

**3.3 Ranger Report**

The Countryside Ranger outlined the Ranger report, referring to Wildlife, Estate Management, Buildings and Events. This included visits by groups from Craigroyston Primary School, a Butterfly Survey, the appending of "Keep Out" signs at buildings and events such as the Wonders of Cammo guided walk.

With regard to canal drainage, capital funds had been released for the installation of a deep sluice to by-pass the original drainage system and it was hoped that works would commence in February/March 2011.

The Ranger also reported on "Phytophthora ramorum" which was a serious fungus-like pathogen causing damage to trees and a range of native plants in North America and had now been found in the UK. The Forestry Commission had surveyed the site but found no indications of the pathogen.

Members expressed concern about the outbreak Phytophthora ramorum and the view was expressed that it should be reported to the Forestry Commission if found on the site.

**Decision**

- 1 To note the ongoing work on the Estate.

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- 2 To note the members' concerns regarding the outbreak *Phytophthora ramorum*.

(Reference – Cammo Estate Advisory Committee 23 August 2010 (item 4))

#### **4 Interpretation**

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

#### **5 Cammo Home Farm**

The Advisory Committee had previously agreed various measures regarding the Cammo Home Farm.

Details were given of plans to progress the situation.

##### **Decision**

That a further progress report be given to the Advisory Committee.

#### **6 Next Ten Year Plan**

The Advisory Committee had previously agreed a Ten Year Management Plan with a review in five years.

The Countryside Ranger Service Manager presented the Draft Management Plan at the meeting. The Ten Year Plan would become operational from April 2011 and a public consultation exercise would be carried out with stakeholders and interested parties.

During discussion of the Management Plan, the following points were made:

- Would the Cammo Estate receive Local Nature (LNR) status.
- It would be worth investigating any possible benefits of achieving Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) status.
- It should be borne in mind that the purpose of the Advisory Committee was to ensure that the Estate remained forever as a public open space, nature reserve, farm and woodland.

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**Decision**

- 1) That members of the Advisory Committee provide feedback to the Countryside Ranger Services Manager within two weeks on the Draft Ten-Year Management Plan.
- 2) That the Countryside Ranger Service Manager include a "Reporting Back Procedure" in the Management Plan.
- 3) That the Countryside Ranger Service Manager investigate if receiving "L N R Status" would interfere with the management of the estate.
- 4) That the Countryside Ranger Service Manager liaise with the appropriate local Elected Members regarding the public consultation process for the Management Plan.

(Reference – Cammo Estate Advisory Committee 23 August 2010 (item 7))

**7 Date of Next Meeting**

Monday, 21 February 2011 at 10.30 am.