

Committee Minutes

Cammo Estate Advisory Committee

Edinburgh, 20 June 2011

Present:-

Representing the National Trust for Scotland – Christopher Cassels.

In Attendance:- Carol Smith (Cramond Association), Harry Taylor (Friends of Cammo), Jenny Hargreaves (Countryside Ranger Service Manager), David Kyles (Countryside Ranger), Lesley Price (Estate Manager, City Development) and Blair Ritchie (Committee Services).

Apologies:- Councillors Kate MacKenzie and Work, George Holmes (Convener), Robin Stimson, Alan McGregor, and Keith Logie.

1 Chair

In the absence of the Convener, Christopher Cassels of the National Trust was appointed to the Chair.

2 Minute

The minute of the meeting of 21 February 2011 was approved as a correct record.

3 Matters Arising from the Minute

3.1 Rosebery Estate

It was noted that the Old Grotto Bridge on the Rosebery Estate, which had been in a poor state of repair, had successfully been repaired.

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4 Request to be Represented on the Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee had received a request from the Cramond and Barnton Community Council that the Community Council be represented on the Advisory Committee.

Decision

That Committee Services write to the Cramond and Barnton Community Council advising that the request had been continued to the next meeting of the Advisory Committee.

(Reference – Letter dated 5 June 2011 from the Cramond and Barnton Community Council, submitted).

5 Cammo Estate Management Plan and Work Plan

The Advisory Committee had previously agreed several measures in respect of the management of the estate.

A Draft Work Plan had been e-mailed to members to allow them to make comments. The Draft Management Plan had been published on the Council's website as part of the Consultation process.

To date no responses received on the Draft Management Plan. The Plan had been widely advertised and members of the public were encouraged to make comments.

Decision

To note the update given.

6 Ranger Report

The Countryside Ranger gave an update on the following areas:

6.1 Management of the Estate

- Chipping of the Laurel trees.
- Regular patrols on the Estate.
- Reporting of full waste bins to the Taskforce.
- Clearing and rendering safe all the damaged trees and limbs resulting from the gales of 22 May 2011.

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6.2 Flooding on the Road

- Discussions were currently taking place between the Countryside Ranger, the adjacent landowner and the Roads Division.
- The landowner would provide a risk assessment to carry out investigative works.

6.3 Estate Buildings

- The Farmhouse was checked on a regular basis with any breaches being reported.
- The alarm system was now fully operational at the Lodge and a new electricity metre had been installed.
- The Visitor Centre had been closed one day following the storm on 22 May as members of the team had been helping survey tree damage.

6.4 Groups Which had Visited the Estate

- BTCV.
- Stevenson College Groups.

6.5 Biodiversity Surveys

- Countryside Rangers were continuing with a Butterfly Monitoring Survey.
- For the first time a Bumblebee Survey would also be carried out this year.
- A new volunteer for the Countryside Ranger Service would be assisting with the Bumblebee Survey.

The surveys were being carried out to establish a record of the species distribution for bees and butterflies, before any changes to the land management took place. Later surveys would hopefully show if there had been any improvement in invertebrate diversity.

6.6 Projects

- Pinetum improvements, including the planting of 7 new endangered conifer species.
- Part of the grass area in the Pinetum had been strimmed.
- Discussion would take place with the local environment team to include the amenity grass area in the regular mowing schedule.
- New woodchip paths would be created.

Decision

To note the various updates given.

7 Interpretation of the Estate

A theatre production had been held on the Estate which had been a great success. The Estate had also been included in the Edinburgh Walking Festival in May. This had resulted in an extra guided walk taking place, the production of a pod cast and the inclusion of the Estate in an advertising leaflet aimed at walkers.

Decision

To note the update given.

8 Cammo Home Farm

The Advisory Committee had previously agreed that regular progress reports be provided on the Home Farm.

Details were given on progress on the Home Farm, following which discussion took place.

Decision

To note the discussions.

9 Other Business

9.1 Rhododendron

The Rhododendron at the East Drive had been pruned.

9.2 Removal of Tree

It would be necessary to request the City of Edinburgh Council Forestry to remove a tree and to remove other debris from one of the main paths.

9.3 Trees in North Field

An assessment of dead and dying trees in the North Field would be carried out.

Decision

To note the updates given.

10 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 5 September 2011 at 10.30 am.