

## FRIENDS OF PUTNOE WOOD and MOWSBURY HILLFORT

### Minutes of the General Meeting held on 9 July 2024 at Cloverdale Retreat Café, Priory Park, Bedford

**Members present:** Lynn Caudrey, Jon Bishop, Chris Moss, Dave Parratt, Peter Stathers, John Wallace, Marion Wallace, Chris Wedge, Helen Wilkie, Andy Wilkins, Allison Wilkins.

**1 Apologies for absence** were received from Chris Bend, Anne Lilliman and Mick Lilliman.

**2 Minutes of last meeting held on Tuesday 14 May 2024 and Matters Arising.**  
The minutes were agreed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising.

**3 Update from Country Park Guardian.**

Jon reported on the guided walk he had led in the Wood and Hillfort for volunteers from Aylesbury Vale on 5 June. Those taking part had enjoyed it and were in particular impressed by the Hillfort.

**4 Future Tasks and Events**

John Wallace outlined work to be addressed in the near future.

#### Putnoe Wood

- Clear debris and overhanging growth from brook once water levels permit.
- Repair or replace bench on central ride.
- Bridge over ditch on south side of wood. Mick is still waiting for wood to make a permanent repair. In the meantime the temporary repairs are sound.
- Clean information boards and glass fronted notice board.

#### Hillfort

- Clear debris from moat and ponds when water levels permit.
- Install new benches on hillside meadow using donation.
- Address problem with hanging post to meadow gate when water table in the ground has reduced, including suggestion to fit spring loaded heavy duty gate wheel.
- Clean information board on west side of meadow, trim grass around board and bench. Prepare place for new bench close by and install new bench.

Andy noted the plastic copy of the Green Flag attached to information plank at bottom of hillside meadow gate are fading. Dave said he will liaise with Ollie at Borough Council for a replacement to go in same location.

**5 Financial Matters**

Peter issued a corrected version of the financial report he had presented at the last meeting on 14 May.

#### Financial Report as at 13th May 2024

Category	Brought Forward	Current Balances	Change
Money held in bank	111.72 (361.72)	336.72 (586.72)	225
Petty cash	22.08	22.08	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>133.80 (383.80)</b>	<b>358.80 (608.80)</b>	<b>225</b>

(NB: figures in brackets indicate actual balances and include £250 funds for benches)

**Transactions since last report:**

£225 has been raised through voluntary donations by members (18 members have donated) giving a balance of £358.80 for group expenditure.

**Income:**

Total Income **£225.00**

**Outgoings:**

Total outgoings: **£0.00**

**Month Net change + £225.00**

**Comments:**

The donation of £250 given to the group in September by Airedale Nursing Home has not as yet been spent (intended for 2 x benches for the Hillfort area)

Peter then presented his **Financial Report as at 5 July 2024.**

Category	Brought Forward	Current Balances	Change
Money held in bank	<b>336.72 (586.72)</b>	<b>336.72 (586.72)</b>	<b>0</b>
Petty cash	22.08	22.08	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>358.80 (608.80)</b>	<b>358.80 (608.80)</b>	<b>0</b>

(NB: figures in brackets indicate actual balances and include £250 funds for benches)

**Transactions since last report:****Income:**

Total Income £.000

**Outgoings:**

Total outgoings: £0.00

**Month Net change £0.00**

**Comments:**

The donation of £250 given to the group in September by Airedale Nursing Home has not as yet been spent (intended for 2 x benches for the Hillfort area)

## 6 Reports from members

**6.1** Lynn reported on a field trip visit to Mowsbury Park and Putnoe Wood by staff and 90 pupils from Castle Newnam school on the morning of 19 June (rescheduled from 13 June). They studied land-use in Mowsbury Park and Putnoe Wood. Due to last minute rescheduling of the visit by the school, Lynn was the only member of the Friends available to help. She guided the pupils through the Wood, and the lead member of staff, Jess Eastwood, was grateful for her help and her representation of the Friends group.

**6.2** Marion reported on a visit to the Hillfort by 20 pupils and staff from Ravensden School planned for the afternoon of 10 July, and to be led by Lucy Tomilson. This will be a repeat of a similar visit in 2022. Allison, Chris Wedge, Helen, and Marion will assist school staff as guides for the visit.

**6.3** Chris Wedge reported on a visit to the Hillfort by 27 members of the local Wildlife Trust group which she had led and was enjoyed by the visitors.

**6.4** Chris Wedge reported that **Green Flags** had been awarded to both Putnoe Wood and the Hillfort following visits by the judges. The final report and verdict have been received but are embargoed until 16 July. Friends present agreed that a noticeboard, similar to the one at the entrance to Putnoe Wood, should be obtained and used to explain the work the Friends are currently carrying out at the Hillfort. Chris will make enquiries on availability and cost from Metro Signs.

**6.5 Mowsbury Hillfort Vision 2024-29.** Friends present expressed their thanks to Dave for writing the Mowsbury Hillfort Vision 2024 to 2029 document . Dave thought that Green Flag judges' request for a Management Plan could be addressed by adding a schedule of work/resources/responsibilities to the Vision and retitling it.

The group is seeking new members to carry forward the Hillfort (and Putnoe Wood) work. Jon Bishop suggested collaboration with other groups might provide additional resource. If an exit strategy is required in the future, a discussion with the Council and Wildlife Trust is an option.

**7 Any other business** Jon reported that Clare Pick is organising a press event at Priory at 9.30am Thursday 11 July to celebrate the awards of Green Flags across the Borough. Volunteers from sites awarded a Green Flag are asked to gather outside the café at Priory Country Park.

## 8 Date of next General Meeting

7.00pm Tuesday 17 September 2024 at Cloverdale Retreat Café, Priory Park, Bedford.