

# FRIENDS OF PUTNOE WOOD and MOWSBURY HILLFORT

## Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 May 2021 via Zoom.

**Members present:** Lynn Caudrey, Martin Fannon, Sue Fannon, Anne Lilliman, Mick Lilliman, Dave Parratt, Chris Moss, Diana Readhead, John Wallace, Marion Wallace, Chris Wedge, Helen Wilkie, John Wilkie,

- 1 **Apologies for absence** were received from Jon Bishop, Allison Wilkins and Andy Wilkins.
- 2 **Minutes of last meeting held on Tuesday 16 March 2021.** These were agreed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising.
- 3 **Update from Country Park Guardian**  
Jon Bishop was unable to attend due to a last-minute work issue and there was therefore no update.
- 4 **Future Tasks and Events**  
John Wallace reported.

### 4.1 Hillfort

- The regular removal of golf balls from Mowsbury Meadow while the grass is short was proving to be very productive.
- As water levels drop, the leat, ponds and moat can be cleared of debris
- Clearance of the southern boundary is required. Brush cutters will be needed.
- Removal of hog weed flower/seed heads in the east orchard.
- Early cut of dogwood on Mowsbury Meadow using hand tools.
- Reinstatement of the rustic bench. After discussion it was agreed that this should be returned to its original site at the top of Mowsbury Meadow. Heavy tools will be needed to dig the 600mm footings required.

### 4.2 Putnoe Wood

- Andy Wilkins will be asked to reproduce and display the information poster he created for the information board last year explaining that the Wildlife Trust had advised the Friends to remove the invasive small balsam and Spanish bluebells. It was acknowledged that clearance of Spanish bluebells in particular would need to be done discreetly to avoid upsetting visitors.
- Clearance of logs and branches from the western ditch is required where routes have been created to enable cyclists to cross the ditch and enter the wood. It was noted that originally Jon Bishop was happy to install two sections of new fencing to deter access by cyclists. John Wallace will enquire if he is still of this opinion, and if there is funding for the fencing timber.
- The tree that fell across the brook to the north of the wood has been radically cut back by Dave and Mick to leave just the trunk. Jon will bring a chain saw on Wednesday 19 May to cut up the trunk. Philip and Mick have volunteered to clear away the wood.

## 5 Financial Matters

John Wilkie presented figures as at 11 May 2021.

Category	Brought Forward	Current Balances
Money held in bank	338.10	320.10
Petty cash	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>338.10</b>	<b>320.10</b>

### Transactions since last report:

#### Income:

**Total Income: £0.00**

#### Outgoings:

Purchase of two hazard warning signs 18.00

**Total outgoings: £18.00**

## 6 Reports from members –

**6.1** Mick and Anne have been doing a litter pick at the hillfort most Sunday mornings. They reported a welcome diminution of litter from 4 bags a day at the outset to half a bag recently.

**6.2** Chris Wedge said that the butterfly surveys would start as soon as weather conditions permitted. She said that Lizzie Dobbie from the Wildlife Trust still hoped to assess Mowsbury Meadow towards the end of May in the hope that she can recommend that the CWS boundary is extended to include the meadow and ramparts.

**6.3** Chris had recently heard from Margaret Fisher, formerly an active member of the Friends, of the recent death of her husband Clifton. Chris will send a card on behalf of the Friends.

## 7 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

## 8 Date of next meeting

7.00pm Tuesday 13 July 2021 via Zoom.