

# FRIENDS OF PUTNOE WOOD and MOWSBURY HILLFORT

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10 September 2019 at Cloverdale Cafe

**Members present:** Jon Bishop, Robert Bright, Fiona Bucknall, Lynn Caudrey, Martin Fannon, Sue Fannon, Dave Parratt, Diana Readhead, John Wallace, Marion Wallace, Chris Wedge, Maggie West, Helen Wilkie, John Wilkie, Andy Wilkins, Allison Wilkins

### 1 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Mick Lilliman, Jane Warner.

### 2 **Minutes of meeting held on 12 June 2018 and matters arising**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising.

### 3 **Report on the work of the Friends of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort for the year**

Dave presented the report. He thanked all members of The Friends Group for their continued support and commitment to maintaining and preserving Mowsbury Hillfort and Putnoe Wood, and for a productive and successful last 15 months with both sites now in excellent condition. Especial thanks were expressed to John Wilkie for handling the finances, Helen Wilkie for acting as group Secretary and John Wallace for the unenviable task of co-ordinating and managing events. Thanks were also extended to Lynn Caudrey for keeping a record of activities on the two sites, Chris Wedge for organising the butterfly surveys, and Marion Wallace for liaising with Mark Rutherford and Hazeldene Schools on various activities.

Dave highlighted the following events:

#### 3.1 **Mowsbury Hillfort**

##### 3.1.1 **Walks**

13 June 2018 – Chris took a Wildlife Trust walk around Mowsbury Hillfort.

18 August 2018 – Andy spoke to the WI in Mowsbury Park, followed by a walk around the Hillfort.

18 June 2019 – Diana and Helen took a group from Kempston WI for a walk around the hillfort. Despite the bad weather, the walk was enjoyed by the hardy attendees.

3.1.2 16 June 2018 – Green Flag awarded and awarded again in June 2019. Chris Wedge was thanked for her work on this.

##### 3.1.3 **Wildflower Surveys**

Between 19–27 June 2018 and again between 18-20 June 2019, wildflower surveys were undertaken on Mowsbury Meadow. Thanks were extended to Chris and Lynn for leading this work and for all who helped. In 2018 seven indicators were frequent or occasional across the meadow. Eight indicators would be required to apply for County Wildlife status. This year's results appear to be similar in terms of the number of indicators, but the spread of plants is visibly greater, suggesting that our management regime is working.

3.1.4 In November 2018 Bedford Borough Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding with The Friends to formalise site management arrangements.

3.1.5 On 19 December 2018 an information board was erected halfway up the Mowsbury Meadow.

**3.1.6** 15 January 2019 – the Wassail took place with the help of the Hemlock Dancers. £149.36 was collected on the night and £100 received from Hemlock Morris. £191.66 was donated to Tibbs Dementia Foundation.

**3.1.7** January 2019 – renewal of our Constitution. Thanks were given to Helen and Mick for their work on this.

**3.1.8** 6 March 2019 – A rustic bench was erected next to the information board with the assistance of pupils from Mark Rutherford school. Thanks were given to Marion for coordinating with the school on the volunteering arrangements.

**3.1.9** March 2019 – A bid for ward funding was successful and £450 awarded, enabling the Friends to purchase some new tools. Thanks were given to John Wilkie for sourcing these.

**3.1.10** 21 August 2019 – The bench at the top of the meadow had been wrenched out of the ground, so the opportunity has been taken to refurbish it. Thanks were given to John Wilkie for undertaking this work.

## **3.2 Putnoe Wood**

**3.2.1** Plots 1a and 1b were coppiced in November and December 2018 and January 2019 with the help of Mark Rutherford students.

**3.2.2** 27 January 2019 – Jon Bishop led a tree identification walk in the wood for the Friends.

**3.2.3** 26 April 2019 - The Friends hosted a visit to the wood from pupils from Hazeldene School as part of the school's Earth Day activities. The event was organised by Marion in partnership with the school and was much appreciated by the school and the pupils.

**3.2.4** May 2019 – A species update list for the wood was undertaken by the Wildlife Trust on behalf of the Borough Council. This should inform the Council in drawing up a new management plan for the wood.

Dave thanked Jon Bishop and Tom for their unfailing support throughout a challenging year following Borough Council restructuring and the loss of Park employees.-

## **4 Report of the accounts of the Friends of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort for the year.**

John Wilkie presented the annual accounts.

<b>Friends of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort</b>					
<b>Annual Accounts as at 10 September 2019</b>					
		<b>2017/18</b>		<b>2018/19</b>	
<b>Opening balances</b>	<b>bank</b>	518.90		433.55	
	<b>cash</b>	0.00	<b>518.90</b>	0.00	<b>433.55</b>
<b>Income</b>		0.00			
				Sale of notelets	46.00
				Borough funding	450.00
		41.15		Sale of tea etc	186.81
		210.19		Wassail visitors' donations	249.36
		251.34	<b>770.24</b>	Total income	932.17
					<b>1365.72</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		7.45		Meeting room Cost	0.00
		50.00		Donation to Beds bat group	0.00
		31.15		Web site	34.74
		0.00		Tools and equipment	489.17
		0.00		Photocopying	5.00
		37.90		Leaving gifts	0.00
		0.00		New cool bag etc	26.49
		44.33		Wassail costs	80.19
		165.86		Donation to wassail charity	191.66
		336.69	<b>433.55</b>	Total expenditure	827.25
					<b>538.47</b>
<b>Closing balances</b>	<b>bank</b>	433.55			538.47
	<b>cash</b>	0.00	<b>433.55</b>		0.00
					<b>538.47</b>

#### 4 Election of Officers

**Chairman**  
Proposed by  
Seconded by

Dave Parratt  
Andy Wilkins  
Marion Wallace

**Secretary**  
Proposed by  
Seconded by

Helen Wilkie  
Marion Wallace  
John Wallace

**Treasurer**  
Proposed by  
Seconded by

John Wilkie  
John Wallace  
Maggie West

**Task and Events Co-ordinator**  
Proposed by  
Seconded by

John Wallace  
Andy Wilkins  
Chris Wedge

All members present in agreement.

#### 5 Any Other Business

None

The Chairman closed the Annual General Meeting at 7.12pm.