

FRIENDS OF PUTNOE WOOD and MOWSBURY HILLFORT

Minutes of the General Meeting held on 12 November 2024 at Cloverdale Retreat Café, Priory Park, Bedford

Members present: Lynn Caudrey, Jon Bishop, Anne Lilliman, Mick Lilliman (from item 6), Dave Parratt, John Wallace, Marion Wallace, Chris Wedge, Helen Wilkie, Allison Wilkins and Andy Wilkins.

- 1 **Apologies for absence** were received from Christopher Linton-Willoughby, Chris Moss, and Peter Stathers.
- 2 **Minutes of last meeting held on Tuesday 17 September 2024 and Matters Arising.**
The minutes were amended to show Chris Moss had sent his apologies. With this amendment, they were agreed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising.
- 3 **Update from Country Park Guardian.**
Jon had been unable to visit the Hillfort due to the extended local road closure. In Putnoe Wood he had identified a patch of dead ash and oak standing trees to the north side of the wood adjacent to the stream. He proposed clear felling the area and re-planting with 1.2m 'feathers' of alder, field maple, and lime which he will source from the Council. The work could take place after coppicing is completed, estimating from 25 January onwards, and he proposed a group visit prior to that date to plan the work involved. Notices to visitors will explain the work to be done. He reported that the Saturday work groups are going well.
- 4 **Future Tasks and Events**
John Wallace outlined work to be addressed in the near future.

Putnoe Wood

Coppicing continues and will move to the south side of the central ride in due course. A Saturday Task Group is planned for 14 December. The bench at the east end of the central ride will be installed after the purchase of posts.

Hillfort

The final decision as to whether the Wassail will take place will depend on whether the road will be open on the proposed dates of 14 and 21 January 2025. Preparatory site work will be necessary, and a decision made as to when to commence advertising the event.

The extra bench next to the information board is still to be installed. Dave suggested Ward funding could be sought for a replacement bench at the top of the hillside meadow along with using some of the Airedale donation.

Jon confirmed that it was not necessary to have signs advising visitors that cycling on the hillfort was not permitted.

Jon will look into the availability of a redundant glass fronted notice board to install at the entrance to the hillfort.

5 **Financial Matters.** (submitted in Peter Stathers' absence)

Financial Report for period 10th Nov 2024

(for meeting dated 12th November 2024)

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

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

No transactions recorded 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 Marion reported that Tracey Palmer of Action4Youth will lead a visit to Putnoe Wood by Year 11 pupils from **Mark Rutherford School** on Tuesday 26 November between 9.30am and 11.30pm. Members volunteered to assist, and Jon will give a short introductory talk about the wood.

6.2 Chris reported that the **Green Flag report on Putnoe Wood** had been positive. The judge's report had stated that signage regarding excluded wheelchairs and push chairs; this is not the case.

6.3 Wassail Charity. Members present agreed that surplus income from the Wassail will be given to the Bedford Food Bank.

7 Any other business It was noted that First Aid Training certification held by Friends expires on 8 March. Jon will investigate a suitable training course. Marion Wallace, Chris Wedge, Helen Wilkie and Allison Wilkins will attend.

8 Date of next General Meeting

7.00pm Tuesday 28 January 2025 at Cloverdale Retreat Café, Priory Park, Bedford.