

FRIENDS OF PUTNOE WOOD and MOWSBURY HILLFORT

Minutes of the General Meeting held on 30 May 2023 via Zoom.

John Wilkie

Dave paid tribute to John Wilkie. He had been a long serving member of the Friends, the Treasurer for many years, a master wood craftsman and very knowledgeable about wildlife and insects. A hardworking volunteer until illness intervened.

Dave hopes many of the Friends will come to the 'Thanks Giving Service' for John, 1pm at St Andrews Church on 14 June followed by refreshments at the Pheasant Pub.

Members present: Lynn Caudrey, Martin Fannon, Sue Fannon, Dave Parratt, Diana Readhead, John Wallace, Marion Wallace, Chris Wedge, Andy Wilkins.

1 Apologies for absence were received from Jon Bishop, Anne Lilliman, Mick Lilliman, Chris Moss, Peter Stathers, Helen Wilkie, Allison Wilkins.

2 Minutes of last meeting held on Tuesday 31 January 2023 and Matters Arising.
The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

In response to an enquiry, Dave confirmed as the Friends meetings were public meetings it was appropriate for the minutes to be accessible on the Friends website.

3 Update from Country Park Guardian.

Jon did not add much to his report for the March meeting. His message this time was carry on and keep up the good work. Just one disappointment to mention, after clearing the fire site more trees have been left there.

Dave explained his thinking about leaving more trees at the burn site. By leaving timber easily available, those visitors wanting to have a fire will not need to cut and burn random trees. This thinking proved to be correct as a poor attempt was made to have a fire using the timber left.

4 Future Tasks and Events

John Wallace presented his report.

Putnoe Wood.

- Annual management of small balsam.
- Cut back growth of shrubs and scrub along path edges.
- Checking the dens created in the wood for litter and other detritus
- Clean information boards in the wood
- Clean glass fronted notice board at S W entrance.

Mowsbury Hillfort.

- Continue with butterfly survey.
- Use new chippings to fill holes created by rabbits and badgers, especially along paths inside monument where they present a safety hazard.
- Continue golf ball collections.
- Check condition of wire and post fruit tree protection.
- Brush cut margin in grass around fruit trees.
- Check neglected orchard.
- When water levels allow remove timber from ponds and moat.

5 Financial Matters

Peter's financial report for 20 May 2023 was distributed in advance of the meeting.

Category	Brought Forward	Current Balances	Change
Money held in bank	£226.89	£226.89	0
Petty cash	£22.08	£22.08	0
Total	£248.97	£248.97	0

Transactions since last report:

There were no transactions in the most recent period.

A grant was received from Bedford Borough Council and this was used by Dave Parratt to buy tools and equipment. A summary of the purchases with details of the expenditure is in preparation.

6 Reports from members

6.1. CPRE judges visit. Dave mentioned the CPRE judges will visit and inspect both sites between 10am and 12.30pm on Monday 19 June starting at the hillside, relating to our applications for the 'Living Countryside Awards 2023'. The judges welcome the opportunity to meet volunteers during their visit.

Martin and Sue, Marion and Chris W gave their apologies in advance.

6.2. Working with local Schools. Marion has spoken to Ravensden Lower School and they are interested in another visit to the Hillfort. They will come back with suggested dates.

6.3. Green Flag Awards. Chris W has not received any news about the date for the announcement of the 2023 awards.

7 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

8 Date of next General Meeting

Tuesday 18 July 2023 via Zoom.