

FRIENDS OF PUTNOE WOOD and MOWSBURY HILLFORT

Minutes of the General Meeting held on 1 April 2025 at Cloverdale Retreat Café, Priory Park, Bedford

Members present: Jon Bishop, Lynn Caudrey, Anne Lilliman, Mick Lilliman, Chris Moss, Pater Stathers, John Wallace, Marion Wallace, Chris Wedge, Helen Wilkie, Allison Wilkins and Andy Wilkins.

- 1 **Apologies for absence** were received from Christopher Linton-Willoughby and Dave Parratt. In Dave's absence and with the agreement of Friends present, John took the Chair.
- 2 **Minutes of last meeting held on Tuesday 28 January 2025 and Matters Arising.**
The minutes were agreed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising.
- 3 **Update from Country Park Guardian.**
Jon had visited Putnoe Wood since his return from holiday, but not the Hillfort. He and Tom will deal with dead wood near the main entrance to the Wood and repair the fence at the eastern end of the wood. Dave will carry out preparatory work on 2nd April and on 3rd April Jon, Tom and Dave will install the lectern information board on the approach to the Hillfort entrance.
- 4 **Future Tasks and Events**
John Wallace outlined work to be addressed in the near future.

Hillfort

Mick had collected the two ash boards from Helen, cut these to length, chamfered the ends and corners, and treated them with wood preserver. It is hoped these will be installed on the Hillfort within the next 2 to 3 weeks.

The Golf Course Manager has agreed to pay for a replacement sign warning of flying golf balls just beyond entrance gates. The plastic Green Flag award sign on the wooden plank sign board at bottom of hillside meadow needs replacing, it has faded in sunlight.

Work to be carried out on a regular basis includes: monitoring the trees along the edge of the meadow adjacent to the golf course; butterfly count; fill in badger scrapes.

Putnoe Wood

Work to be carried out includes: monitoring the 7 oak saplings in plots 1E and 1F; trim growth back along path edges; dismantling camps in the wood in readiness for Green Flag inspection.

5 Financial Matters. Peter presented his report.

Financial Report for period 07th January - 17th March 2025

(for meeting dated 1st April 2025)

Category	Brought Forward	Current Balances	Change
Money held in bank	292.48 (542.48)	329.48 (531.50)	-10.98
Petty cash	22.08	22.08	nil
Total	314.56 (564.56)	351.56 (553.58)	-10.98

(NB: figures in brackets indicate actual balances and include £202.02 funds for benches)

Transactions recorded since last report:

Main Fund:

Income:

Voluntary contributions **£37.00**
(3 x voluntary contributions – total of 8 contributions rec'd)

Total Income £37.00

Outgoings:

Total outgoings: £0.00

Month Net change +£37.00

Bench Fund:

Timber for benches - £47.98

Month Net Change: - £47.98

Overall Change: -£10.98

Comments:

£47.98 of the donation of £250 given to the group in September by Airedale Nursing Home has now been spent (balance £202.02).

Peter reminded the meeting that he is collecting the annual £12 voluntary contributions from members. He asked that contributions are paid directly into the Group account. 8 members had contributed to date providing £97 towards our outgoings.

6 Reports from members

6.1 Andy commented that it would be possible to reduce the cost of the **Friend's website** if we changed to another provider, but this would mean agreeing on a new domain name. In the meantime the current website is paid for until the end of the year.

6.2 Friends present agreed that the bench at the top of Mowsbury Meadow will not be replaced.

7 Any other business Mick reported that the Friends' Health and Safety Risk Assessment required updating. He offered to carry out this task, and the Friends expressed their thanks.

8 Date of next General Meeting

7.00pm Tuesday 10 June 2025 at Cloverdale Retreat Café, Priory Park, Bedford.