

# FRIENDS OF PUTNOE WOOD and MOWSBURY HILLFORT

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 September 2019 at Cloverdale Retreat Café, Priory Country Park, Bedford**

**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** were received from Mick Lilliman, Jane Warner.

**2 Minutes of last meeting held on Tuesday 25 June 2019.** Agreed as an accurate record.

## **3 Update from Country Park Guardian**

Jon Bishop reported and commended The Friends for their work.

### **3.1 Putnoe Wood**

**3.1.1 TCV – The Community Volunteering Charity.** Catherine at TCV had made enquiries about the possibility of a group of 11 or 12 corporate volunteers spending two days coppicing in Putnoe Wood during October or November, including their removing suitable arisings for use in hedge-laying work elsewhere. John Wallace stressed the importance of The Friends working closely with such a group including showing them where the work needed to be carried out, how to coppice, how to remove arisings to form habitat piles, dead hedges or stacked for possible use off-site, and final site clear-up. After discussion The Friends agreed in principle to the suggestion subject to the volunteers being adequately supervised. Jon will liaise with TCV and report back.

**3.1.2 Fencing** materials will be ordered in order to carry out work already agreed at points where access by cyclists needs to be stopped.

**3.1.3 An oak tree** had fallen on the southern boundary of the wood adjacent to the rugby pitches. This will require removal and may reveal damage to the adjacent pedestrian bridge which would need to be assessed.

### **3.2 Hillfort**

**3.2.1 Wassail.** Members welcomed an offer from the Hemlock to lead another Wassail in early January. Jon will liaise and confirm the date.

**3.2.2 Bridge over leat on north-west corner of site.** This needs repair or replacement, and members agreed it would be an opportunity to widen it to facilitate access by grass cutting machinery to the path on the northern side.

**3.2.3 Hillfort Information Leaflet.** Jon will order a reprint as agreed at last meeting.

## **4 Future Tasks and Events**

John Wallace reported.

**4.1 Putnoe Wood** Autumn management tasks requiring work include: path clearance, litter picks, and removal of debris from the fallen oak.

### **4.2 Hillfort.**

**4.2.1 Northern Viewpoint.** Work is required to cut back brambles, prune shrubs and carry out any other appropriate work in order to improve wildlife habitats in the area.

**4.2.2 Benches.** The vandalised bench from the top of Mowsbury Meadow had been repaired by John Wilkie. After discussion it was agreed that it will be returned to its original

position but installed using firmer foundations. Dave will investigate the possibility of installing a rustic bench in a position overlooking the northern viewpoint.

**4.2.3 Removal of old arisings from island.** It was agreed that these will be removed to the burn site with a view to being chipped at a time when Jon can have the chipper. The chippings can be used to fill rabbit holes in advance of the Wassail and any surplus put to the side of the burn site.

**4.2.4 Orchard trees.** Chris Wedge spoke of the need to re-label and review the mapping of the trees. It was agreed that we may need help in identification of the trees. This is potentially a big project and will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

## 5 Reports from members.

**Marion Wallace** reported on contact with Sam Baker at **Mark Rutherford school** who is keen to bring students to work with The Friends as last year. No firm arrangements have been made yet.

## 6 Financial Matters

John Wilkie presented the latest figures as at 10 September 2019.

Category	Brought forward	£££.pp
Money held in bank	457.97	538.47
Petty cash	55.50	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>513.47</b>	<b>538.47</b>

### Transactions since last report:

#### Income:

Tea sales £25.00

**Total Income £25.00**

**Outgoings: £0.00**

**Total outgoings: £0.00**

## 7 Any Other Business

**Borough Council Volunteer Celebration Evening.** John Wallace reminded members of this event to be held at Cloverdale Retreat Café, Priory Country Park on Friday 20th September from 6pm.

## 8 Date of next meetings

7.00pm Tuesday 12 November 2019 at Cloverdale Retreat Café, Priory Park.