

# FRIENDS OF PUTNOE WOOD and MOWSBURY HILLFORT

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 12 July 2017 at Mowsbury Clubhouse

**Members present:** Jon Bishop, Lyn Caudrey, Martin Fannon, Sue Fannon, Mick Lilliman, Dave Parratt, Diana Readhead, John Wallace, Marion Wallace, Jane Warner, Chris Wedge, Helen Wilkie, John Wilkie, Andy Wilkins (Chairman), Allison Wilkins,

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

Apologies were received from Robert Bright and Danny Fellman.

### 2 **Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 7 March 2017**

These were agreed as an accurate record.

### 3 **Election of Officials**

The members currently holding Office indicated their willingness to serve for another year. In the absence of any additional nominations, members present agreed to the re-appointment of the following:

Andy Wilkins	Chair
Helen Wilkie	Secretary
John Wilkie	Treasurer
John Wallace	Task and Event Co-ordinator

### 4 **Update from Country Park Guardians**

Jon Bishop thanked members for their continued work on both sites. It was generally felt that there has been an increase in numbers visiting the Hillfort since the Friends group had been formed, and that these visitors were all respectful of the of the environment.

### 5 **Future Tasks and events**

- 5.1 Visit by Hazeldene Lower School to Putnoe Wood 21 April 2017.** Marian gave an oral report on the visit which had been linked to Global Earth Day and involved 60 nine-year-old mixed ability pupils. She and Nicki had provided an introductory talk for the pupils on 19 April which included introducing new terminology relevant to the visit to the wood. The visit had gone well, and a number of the Friends had attended to give additional adult support to Marion, Nicki and the school staff. Bespoke quiz sheets for common birds and plants had been used. A letter of thanks from Hazeldene had been received. The possibility of producing an Education Resource Pack for use with Primary Schools was discussed and the idea well received. Marian has made provisional contact with Renhold Lower School regarding a future visit.
- 5.2 CPRE Walk 29 June.** John Wallace reported on the evening guided walk for CPRE members which included Putnoe Wood, Mowsbury Hillfort and Freeman's Common. Visitors had expressed their appreciation and enjoyment of the walk.
- 5.3 On-line Atlas of Hillforts of Britain and Ireland 23 June.** John Wallace reported on his live interview on Three Counties Radio to mark the launch of the Atlas.
- 5.4 Bat Walk.** Danny had requested suggestions for dates for a future bat walk. Members present favoured either a Tuesday or Thursday event. John Wallace will liaise with Danny and fix a date.
- 5.5 HLS funding of work at Hillfort.** Jon reported that Frances Prince had left Natural England and he had had no contact with the relevant officer in the Borough Council regarding funding for proposed work under the HLS agreement. Lyn and Dave agreed to chase this up.

**5.6 Mowsbury grass cutting** Jon reported that Ray Burley had been contracted to cut, bale and remove the hay from the Meadow. Andy requested prior notice of the work being carried out so that Friends can try to remove as many golf balls as possible from the site to minimise damage to mechanical equipment. The Courtyard, ramparts and Neglected Orchard would be cut, raked and arisings removed by the Friends as in previous years.

**5.7 Putnoe Wood.**

- Paths. Jon said that the edges of these will be mowed once the machine is mended. It was noted that weeding of the three cross paths will also be required in some places.
- The installation of restrictions to access via the south side bridge in order to slow down cyclists' entry is outstanding.

**5.8 Parklife 'Love Parks' week 14-21 July.** John Wallace drew members' notice to this event which lists Bedford Borough as a participant.

**6 Financial Matters**

John Wilkie presented the latest figures.

Cash in Bank	£550.35
Petty Cash	£0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£550.35</b>

<b>Income</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£0.00</b>

<b>Outgoings</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£0.00</b>

John reported that at the Task Event on 5 July 2017 a quorate group of members had agreed to purchase 4 double-edged bashers at a cost of £15 each. An order for these tools has been placed.

**7 Any Other Business**

**7.1 Risk Assessments.** Chris queried whether the new bashers on order would require a separate risk assessment. Jon Bishop said that this should form part of existing Borough Council documents. It was agreed that an annual review of the Tools Risk Assessment should take place.

**7.2 Mowsbury Meadow Surveys.** Chris reported that data from 20 quadrats examined for the wildflower survey had been collated and the information sent to Laura Taylor at the Wildlife Trust. Her comments are awaited. It was encouraging to note the spread of new species such as Yellow Rattle onto the Meadow. The butterfly surveys were continuing with an increase in the number and species recorded during recent weeks after a quiet start.

**7.3 Data Protection.** Andy had completed an on-line self-assessment to check our compliance with the Data Protection Act. This had shown no requirement for the Friends to register, but we nevertheless need to ensure adherence to the principles of the Act.

**7.4 Wassail.** Jon said that Hemlock would be happy to lead another Wassail in January 2018 to follow the format of previous years. Provisional dates of Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018 were proposed and Jon with confirm one of these with Hemlock.

**7.5 Lammas Day.** Jon reported that on the afternoon of Sunday 30 July, a local Druid group will hold a celebration for Lammas Day at the Hillfort. This is a small event for their membership and will not be advertised to the public.

**8 Date of next meeting.** 7.00pm Tuesday 12 September at Mowsbury Clubhouse