

FRIENDS OF PUTNOE WOOD and MOWSBURY HILLFORT

Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 November 2018 at Cloverdale Retreat Café, Priory Country Park

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

1 Apologies for absence.
Robert Bright.

2 Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 4 September 2018
The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

3 Update from Country Park Guardians
Jon Bishop reported.

3.1 The hillfort. The hillfort was looking very good and Jon thanked the Friends for the work carried out. Jon noted that the hillfort sign on the entrance gate to Mowsbury Meadow was buckling and asked that it be inspected to assess any necessary remedial work. John Wilkie agreed to do this.

3.1.1 Hillfort interpretation board. Prices for the manufacture of the stands and the design and printing work were still awaited. Andy reported that Charlie Royden had offered some money to support the Friends work; this could go towards costs. The £400 from James Lynch is still available.

3.1.2 Rustic Seat. Materials are available for installation at some point in the future.

3.2 Putnoe Wood.

3.2.1 Coppicing. Work continues. If the amount of material cut down proves to be more than can be disposed of in habitat piles and dead hedges, Jon can arrange to use the chipper again as for last year. Jon requested that stumps should be cut as low as possible. He did not favour burning arisings in the wood because of the effect on the flora on the site. Martin stated that brush cutters would be needed to clear the glade. It was noted that senior pupils and a member of staff from Mark Rutherford school were planning to visit the coppicing area the next day to learn about what was involved and take part in the activity. Jon will brief them on arrival including on health and safety.

3.3 Training Needs. Jon enquired about this, but none were identified.

4 Future Tasks and Events.

4.1 Putnoe Wood. Coppicing will continue for the next 2 to 3 weeks followed by autumn management tasks.

4.2 Mowsbury. Notices for the Wassail on 15 January 2019 will go out in December. Andy was thanked for designing the poster. Arrangements will be as for previous years. Members were asked to forward suggestions to Helen as to which charity profits should be given to.

4.3 Volunteer Celebration Evening. Members were reminded of this event at the Pavilion Café in Bedford Park between 6 and 9pm on Tuesday 20 November 2018. Those wishing to attend were asked to inform Katie Lewis.

5 Financial Matters

John Wilkie presented the latest figures.

Cash in Bank	£459.99
Petty Cash	£29.50
TOTAL	£489.49

Transactions since last report:

Income	
Tea Sales	£10.99
Sale of notelets	£30.00
TOTAL	£40.99

Outgoings	
Tea paraphernalia	£26.49
TOTAL	£26.49

6 Report from Constitution Revision Group

The revised draft had been circulated prior to the meeting. Helen explained the amendments made following comments at the Special General Meeting on 4 September 2018. All changes were accepted and the revision group thanked for their work. Members present requested that the revised draft will be brought to a Special General Meeting to precede the next general meeting for formal acceptance.

7 Green Flag Award – consideration of Judge’s Comments

Chris Wedge took members through the Judge’s written comments which will be posted on the Friends website. Discussion took place around points raised including in the areas of welcome signage, environmental management, general maintenance and relations with other groups. It was noted that the next application, due in by 29 January 2019, will require a response to the comments. Chris volunteered to prepare the response. Dave will speak to James Lynch and ask for a written statement covering the relationship between the Friends and the Borough Council which Chris can include in the application.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Mark Rutherford School. Marion explained the background to her contacts with the school through Sam Baker, head of Business Studies. A number of pupils were expected to visit Putnoe Wood the next day to learn about coppicing and take part in the activity. Katie Lewis had carried out a full risk assessment with the school. If all goes well, it is possible that in the future they could visit Mowsbury to assist in maintenance tasks such as scrub clearance.

8.2 Thanks. Andy was thanked for putting information about coppicing and a Remembrance poem in the notice board at the south-west entrance to Putnoe Wood.

8.3 Charlie Royden. Allison reported that Charlie had expressed appreciation of the work done by the Friends at Mowsbury.

9 Date of next meeting

7.00pm Tuesday 22 January 2019 at Cloverdale Retreat Café, Priory Country Park.