

FRIENDS OF PUTNOE WOOD and MOWSBURY HILLFORT

Minutes of the General Meeting held on 14 September 2021 via Zoom.

Members present: Lynn Caudrey, Martin Fannon, Sue Fannon, Anne Lilliman, Dave Parratt, Chris Moss, Diana Readhead, John Wallace, Marion Wallace, Chris Wedge, Helen Wilkie, John Wilkie, Allison Wilkins and Andy Wilkins.

- 1 **Apologies for absence** – Anne Lilliman Chris Moss and Maggie West. Mick Lilliman had warned that he would join after the start of the meeting.
- 2 **Minutes of last meeting held on Tuesday 13 July 2021.** These were agreed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising.
- 3 **Update from Country Park Guardian**
Jon reported that Mowsbury Meadow had been cut by the contractor that day. Bailing should take place the following week. The work done to collect golf balls over recent months had been very successful; thanks were given to all those involved, especially to Sue.

Jon requested that the hawthorn along the bridle path to the west of Mowsbury meadow is trimmed where it overhangs or obstructs. The broken fence at the bottom of the path adjacent to the gate needed removing. John Wilkie suggested that the wood was stored for burning at the next Wassail. Jon reported that the new gate post had been delivered, plus one for Putnoe Wood.

There have been no further communications regarding the squirrel traps in a garden adjacent to the bridle path.

The request by the local organiser of the NCS (National Citizen Service) for work experience opportunities was discussed, taking into account Jon's experience with the organisation, and Dave's meeting with Matt Harvey from the NCS. It was unlikely that the Friends would be able to offer meaningful work for the large groups NCS usually works with, although it might be possible to accommodate one or two volunteers joining routine tasks. Any group would need to be supervised by an NCS leader, regardless of size. The Friends agreed to give consideration to any proposal submitted by the NCS.

Jon asked if the Friends would like to organise a Wassail with Hemlock dancers, assuming that Covid 19 regulations permitted this. Members present agreed on a provisional date of Tuesday 11 January 2022. Jon will liaise with Hemlock.

- 4 **Future Tasks and Events**
John Wallace reported.

4.1 Putnoe Wood

Work to prepare the wood for winter is required including: cutting back invasive growth along paths; surveying the next coppice plot to assess work required; installing new gate post for the large metal gate at the west end of the central ride.

4.2 Hillfort

Work to be tackled includes: strimming and clearing western and southern ramparts, courtyard meadow, island, and orchard; preparing the wassail site; clearing overgrown hawthorn on the bridle path: installing new gate post at entrance.

5 Financial Matters

John Wilkie presented figures as at 14 September 2021.

Category	Brought Forward	Current Balances
Money held in bank	320.10	320.10
Petty cash	0.00	0.00
Total	320.10	320.10

Transactions since last report:

Income:

Total Income: £0.00

Outgoings:

Total outgoings: £0.00

6 Reports from members –

6.1 Green Flag application for Putnoe Wood. A report by Chris Wedge and John Wallace on the visit by two Green Flag judges had been sent to members before the meeting. Chris highlighted some points made in the report including that it would appear the application had not 'sold' the Friends and their work in the Wood sufficiently well, and the need for a Vision Plan similar to the one Dave drew up for the Hillfort. The judges' report was not expected until October. It was agreed that once this had been received a Steering Group of 3 or 4 members should be convened to consider how to take any future application forward. Members present expressed thanks to Chris and John for their work on the original application and the report.

7 Any Other Business

Marion asked members present for their views on whether we should renew our offers to local schools to lead or assist with educational visits to Putnoe Wood and the Hillfort as took place before the pandemic. It was acknowledged that any visits would depend on the status of future Covid19 regulations. Discussion took place and it was agreed that Marion, Chris Wedge and Helen will review and update the content of the existing visit programmes prior to making contact with schools.

8 Date of next meetings

Tuesday 16 November 2021 at 7.15pm - Annual General Meeting to be followed by a General Meeting. Location to be advised.