

FRIENDS OF PUTNOE WOOD and MOWSBURY HILLFORT

Minutes of the General Meeting held on 16 November 2021 via Zoom.

Members present: Lynn Caudrey, Martin Fannon, Sue Fannon, Dave Parratt, Diana Readhead, Philip Slathers, John Wallace, Marion Wallace, Chris Wedge, Helen Wilkie, John Wilkie, Andy Wilkins.

1 **Apologies for absence** were received from Jon Bishop, Fiona Bucknall, Mick Lilliman, Anne Lilliman, Maggie West, and Allison Wilkins.

2 **Minutes of last meeting held on Tuesday 14 September 2021.** These were agreed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising.

3 **Update from Country Park Guardian**

Jon had sent a detailed report, circulated to the Friends prior to the meeting, which included suggestions for future work on both sites. John Wallace had walked around the Putnoe coppicing site with Jon on Tuesday 15 November.

4 **Future Tasks and Events**

John Wallace reported. The focus will continue to be on coppicing plot 1E including piling a small amount of the hazel brush on top of the coppice stools to deter the deer from gnawing the young stems. Preparatory work for the Wassail at Mowsbury will commence in December.

5 **Financial Matters**

John Wilkie presented figures as at 16 November 2021 noting that there had been no financial activity since the last meeting.

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 results and future applications – Chris Wedge reported. Both Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury had received Community Awards. The comments from the judges of both sites will be noted when making the 2022 applications which are due in before the end of January 2022. Chris and John will draw up a Vision Statement for Mowsbury to address the lack of a Borough Council Management Plan; Dave will assist. Chis has Award signs. It was agreed that the Putnoe Award should be displayed adjacent to the noticeboard at the south-west entrance, and the Mowsbury Award should be fixed to the gate into the meadow. Andy will scan one and put the image on the website.

6.2 County Wildlife Status Award - Chris reported that the final document relating to the award of County Wildlife Status for Mowsbury Meadow, which will specify the areas included in the award, has yet to be received.

6.3 Work with local schools – Marion gave an overview of the work carried out with schools prior to the pandemic which had included Hazeldene, Renhold and Scott Primary Schools, and Mark Rutherford Secondary School. Marion, Chris and Helen had recently contacted 7 local Primary schools: Brickhill, The Hills, Hazeldene, Putnoe, and Ravensden and Renhold. They are meeting the Brickhill Deputy Headteacher on Monday 22 November to discuss possible work with the school.

6.3 Defibrillators – Marion noted that the defibrillators at Bedford and Mowsbury Park needed battery checks.

7 Any Other Business

7.1 Tea Club – Mick had conveyed a request for the meeting to consider whether or not the Friends should reinstate the Tea Club rota as run prior to the introduction of Covid restrictions. After discussion it was agreed that, for the time being, we should continue to bring our own refreshments.

7.2 Brush cutter fuel can – Andy noted that Bedford Borough Council have combi fuel cans with overfill protection spouts which would enable easier and safer filling of brush cutters. Dave will speak to Jon about using these in the future.

7.3 Wassail – Andy noted that, if the Wassail takes place on 11 January, bookings should open on 11 December and he would need to order catering supplies. However, Hemlock had yet to confirm that they were able to take part. John Wallace will ask Jon to confirm.

7.4 Christmas Wreath Making – Marion is hoping to run another event but is looking for a venue. Andy offered the use of his marquee. Marion will discuss further with Andy

7.5 Work at Mowsbury – John Wallace reported on a hazel fence addition carried out by Anne, Mick and himself at the hillfort. This closed the gap beside the small entrance gate. Trimming of the adjoining bramble was done to allow the side gate to open wider for large machinery. The Friends expressed their thanks for this work.

8 Date of next General Meeting

Tuesday 25 January 7.00pm by Zoom.