

# FRIENDS OF PUTNOE WOOD and MOWSBURY HILLFORT

## Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 September 2018 at Cloverdale Retreat Café, Priory Country Park

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

### 1 Apologies for absence.

None received.

### 2 Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 12 June 2018

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

### 3 Update from Country Park Guardians

Jon Bishop reported.

**3.1 Green Flag Award.** Jon congratulated the Friends on winning this for Mowsbury Hillfort. Chris Wedge was thanked for her work in submitting the application.

#### 3.2 Hillfort

**3.2.1 Courtyard and Island.** Jon had spoken with Laura at the Wildlife Trust about collecting seed from some of the Courtyard arisings and spreading it over a section of the Island. Laura confirmed this was an appropriate method of introducing new species. Details of how the work would be carried out was discussed and agreed.

**3.2.2 Orchard.** After discussion it was agreed that some of the arisings from this area will be put in a heap near to the edge of the adjacent pond to form a suitable habitat for reptiles and invertebrates. Arisings will also be moved into the wooded area to the north-west of the Orchard for composting and to act as barriers to reduce the risk of visitors taking a shortcut to the orchard. Any remaining arisings will be taken to the burn site.

**3.2.3 Perimeter Path.** It was agreed that the Friends will cut back scrub and bramble along the path to the north of the site to increase the width of the path Jon mows, thereby improving accessibility along that part of the perimeter walk.

**3.2.4 Interpretation Board.** Dave has given the information to Ollie, Bedford BC Graphic Designer, for him to produce a draft for consideration. Dave has also confirmed with James Lynch that there is a £400 budget for this work. However, the total cost is not yet known as Jon has been unable to contact the manufacturer of the stands for the Putnoe boards to obtain a price.

**3.2.5 Green Flag Award.** Chris Wedge agreed to submit another application on behalf of the Friends in 2019. Comments made by the 2018 Judge will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### 3.3 Putnoe Wood.

**3.3.1 Management Plan.** Jon reported that Laura has agreed to do a baseline survey next spring which will be presented to Claire Pick, BBC Economic Development Officer, to inform her in drawing up a Management Plan. This was welcomed by the meeting.

**3.3.2 Coppicing.** It was agreed that plots 1A and 1B will be coppiced this year plus half of the fly-catcher glade. No changes to plot areas were suggested.

**3.3.3 Old Forestry Commission signage.** Marion reported on finding some of this old signage. Jon confirmed that the Commission no longer has any role in the management of Putnoe Wood.

#### 4 **Future Tasks and Events.**

Mowsbury tasks during September will include cutting Courtyard and Orchard, disposal of arisings, and checking ponds for any necessary work. Autumn tasks on the Hillfort will have priority over any work at Putnoe apart from a possible litter pick.

- 5 **QR Codes.** Andy explained that the existing QR codes no longer work. There was no data available regarding the number of hits on our website resulting from their use. Acquiring a new QR code would be free of charge, but we would need to pay for a re-print of the new code onto suitable material and fixing it to the boards. After discussion it was agreed that, for the time being, we will not acquire a new code, and we will not take any action to cover up the old codes.

#### 6 **Financial Matters**

John Wilkie presented the latest figures.

Cash in Bank	£459.99
Petty Cash	£15.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£474.99</b>

Transactions since last report:

Income	
Tea Sales	£44.44
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£44.44</b>

Outgoings	
Photocopying	£3.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3.00</b>

#### 7 **Any Other Business**

- 7.1 **Wassail.** It was agreed that this will take place on either 8<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019. The date will be fixed after Jon has spoken with the Hemlock Dancers.

- 7.2 **Seat for western side of Mowsbury Meadow.** Jon has materials to create a rustic seat. It was agreed that the Friends will install this at the same time as the interpretation board.

#### 8 **Date of next meeting**

7.00pm Tuesday 13 November at Cloverdale Retreat Café, Priory Country Park.