

## FRIENDS OF PUTNOE WOOD and MOWSBURY HILLFORT

### Minutes of the General Meeting held on 28 January 2025 at Cloverdale Retreat Café, Priory Park, Bedford

**Members present:** Jon Bishop, Lynn Caudrey, Christopher Lynton-Willoughby, Chris Moss, Dave Parratt, John Wallace, Marion Wallace, Chris Wedge, Allison Wilkins and Andy Wilkins.

**1 Apologies for absence** were received from Anne and Mick Lilliman, Peter Stathers and Helen Wilkie.

**2 Minutes of last meeting held on 12 November 2024 and Matters Arising.** The minutes were agreed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising.

#### **3 Update from Country Park Guardian**

Jon has a spare lectern notice board for use at the Hillfort entrance. The exact position to be discussed with the Golf Club. Proposed signage from the Public Footpath, being provided by the Ravensden Parish Council, has not yet been installed. A new sign warning people of flying golf balls needs to be erected, either by the Borough Council or the Golf Club. The wording on the sign to be shorter and less aggressive. Jon will arrange the refresher first aid course as referred to in the previous minutes for the four Friends. Posts have been purchased for the legs of the two benches to be erected at the Hillfort. The possibility for a QR code to be used for access to information on the fruit trees was discussed. Jon will check if the Borough Council have any records of fruit tree species. Otherwise, fruit could be taken to Bromham Mill for identification when they run an ID session. Two fallen trees have been sawed and removed from centre ride and south path in the Wood.

Jon commented both sites were looking good and he congratulated the Friends for an early completion of the coppicing.

#### **4 Future tasks and events**

The Borough Council require all volunteers to re-register with them and read the Volunteer Guidance Pack to ensure the safety of volunteers. A link has been sent from Katie Lewis for volunteers to use when re-registering and they are asked not to undertake volunteering tasks until they have done so.

In Putnoe Wood the stream needs to be cleared and shrubbery on bank trimmed. Green growth along paths to be cut back. The bench at the east end of the centre ride needs to be replaced.

At the Hillfort two new benches are to be installed, one near information board halfway up the meadow and the other at the top of the meadow near the burn site. The Green Flag plaque on the information plank at the bottom of the meadow has faded and either needs replacing or another way of display found.

5 Financial Matters (submitted in Peter Stathers' absence)

**Financial Report for period 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024 - 06<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**(for meeting dated 28th January 2025)**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Brought Forward</b>	<b>Current Balances</b>	<b>Change</b>
Money held in bank	<b>336.72 (586.72)</b>	<b>292.48 (542.48)</b>	<b>-44.24</b>
Petty cash	22.08	22.08	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>358.80 (608.80)</b>	<b>314.56 (564.56)</b>	<b>-44.24</b>

(NB: figures in brackets indicate actual balances and include £250 funds for benches)

**Transactions recorded since last report:**

**Income:**

**Total Income**

Voluntary contributions **£60.00**  
(5 x voluntary contributions)

**Outgoings:**

**Total outgoings: £104.24**

Web Site (One.com) £104.24

**Month Net change -£44.24**

**Comments:**

The donation of £250 given to the group in September by Airedale Nursing Home has not as yet been spent (intended for 2 x benches for the Hillfort area)

Just a reminder that I am collecting the annual £12 voluntary contributions from members. I would be grateful if contributions are paid directly into the Group account.

Nat West Bank  
Friends of putnoe woods and mowsbury hillfort  
Sort Code 60-02-13  
a/c No. 631525525  
Many thanks

5 i Payment for the two new posts will appear on the next financial statement.

5 ii Voluntary contributions to raise funds was agreed at the AGM in Nov 2024. Discussion took place, we will need to find other means of fundraising if voluntary contributions do not meet website costs, but no decision was taken on what these might be.

## **6 Reports from members**

**6 i** Marion: Tracey Palmer of Action4Youth a charity working with Year 11 pupils at Mark Rutherford had requested an education visit to Putnoe Wood on 26 November 2024. Tracey and members of staff attended with the pupils. Jon Bishop provided an entertaining and informative talk about the wood and gave a demonstration of coppicing. Four Friends: Allison, Chris, Lynn and Marion walked three groups of pupils, staff and Tracey round the wood. On the day there was a mixed response from the groups. Marion reported that the school gave her a very positive response, Tracey sent an appreciative message to the Friends for their help. Educational aims for the session were achieved.

**6 ii** Chris Wedge reported that the Green Flag applications for both sites had been submitted. Chris thanked Dave and Lynn for providing this year's work program for the Hillfort.

## **7 Any other business.**

There was no other business.

## **8 Date of next General Meeting**

7.00 pm Tuesday 1 April 2025 at Coverdale Retreat Café, Priory Park, Bedford.