

FRIENDS OF PUTNOE WOOD and MOWSBURY HILLFORT

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 12 November 2024 at Cloverdale Retreat
Café,
Priory Park, Bedford

Members present: Lynn Caudrey, Jon Bishop, Anne Lilliman, Dave Parratt, John Wallace, Marion Wallace, Chris Wedge, Helen Wilkie, Andy Wilkins, Allison Wilkins.

- 1 Apologies for absence** were received Mick Lilliman, Christopher Linton-Willoughby, Chris Moss and Peter Stathers.
- 2 Minutes of meeting held on 7 November 2023 and matters arising**
The minutes were agreed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising.
- 3 Chairman's Report on the work of the Friends of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort for the year 2023/24**
Dave presented the Chairman's report as follows.

I would firstly like to thank you all for your hard work over the last year. I believe that we have maintained both sites in a manner which continues to make them both accessible and enjoyable. Certainly, with one exception, all the visitor feedback I have received has been very positive. The reports from visits undertaken by Green Flag and other inspectors have also provided positive feedback.

Lynn summarised the main tasks as listed below.

Mowsbury Hillfort

Nov 23	Branches removed from dead pine. One pine and 2 cypresses lopped.
Dec 23	Part of ash tree sheared off into south moat. Partly chain sawed and removed in Sept 24.
16 Jan 24	Wassail took place and £150 collected and sent to foodbank.
Feb 24	Apple trees pruned.
April 24	Cuttings from the site were chipped for use as mulch and path repair.
June 24	Jon Bishop conducted a visit from Aylesbury Vale volunteers to both sites.
12 June 24	Chris took a Wildlife Trust tour of the site.
10 July 24	Visit from Ravensden Primary school.
July 24	Green Flag awarded following a site visit.
Aug 24	Entrance gate post re-set.
16 Sept 24	Meadow mowed.

The Vision was reviewed and re-issued with a plan showing all the site designations. The planning application for 3 bungalows on a site adjoining the hillfort site went to appeal and was dismissed on 27 Sept 24. Jon Bishop met with Historic England on site. No written feedback was received, but positive comments were made on site.

Putnoe Wood

Coppicing of plot 1g was completed early in 2024. Plot 1h is currently being worked on including being brush-cut.

19 June 24 Visit from Castle Newnham School.

Small balsam was brush-cut and pulled.

Green flag was awarded following a mystery shopper visit.

General

The new benches at the Hillfort and Putnoe Wood using the donation from Airedale Nursing Home are still to be installed.

4 Report of the accounts of the Friends of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort for the year. (submitted in Peter Stathers' absence)

Our bank balance at the time of this report stands at £586.72 with a petty cash fund of £22.08, which at first glance is at a similar level to what it was at the end of the previous year. Again £250 of this is a donation for seating to be located in the Hillfort/woods areas, and therefore our actual bank available fund is only £358.80 (total).

A Wassail took place in January this year, which once again enabled us to make a £150 donation to the local Foodbank. The plan is to support the Foodbank again in 2025. Also, as we have continued to bring our own refreshments, a proposal was made to request voluntary donations of £12 pa to help to fund the web site and other ad-hoc expenses. This will be formally proposed at AGM.

Our only other item of expenditure this year was for the Web Site which was significantly higher than the previous year. So our 'kitty' is likely to continue with a buffer to cope with any unexpected payments.

Friends of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort

Annual Accounts as at 7th November 2024

2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23		Opening balances		2023/4	
538.47		387.81		320.10		£457.86		bank	£226.89	(exc £250 bench fund)	
0.00	538.47	0.00	387.81	0.00	320.10	£0.00		Petty cash	£22.08		
								bench fund	£250.00		
								Total	£498.97		
<u>Income</u>											
								Member donations	£225.00		
						£24.85		Petty Cash	£0.00		
200.00		0.00		0.00		£906.02		Borough equipment funding	£0.00		
						£37.82		Borough Funding top up (D Parrett)	£0.00		
66.21		0.00		0.00				Sale of tea etc	£0.00		
150.00		0.00		0.00		£201.00		Wassail donations (public)	£211.48		
								Wassail donations (bank)	£0.00		
				200.00		£250.00		Misc. Receipts (Ayredale Nursing)	£0.00		
416.21	954.68	0.00	387.81	200.00	520.10	£1,419.69		Total income	£436.48		
<u>Expenditure</u>											
						£2.77		Petty cash (Wassail charity donation top up)			
								Bank (Wassail charity donation top up)	£6.09		
45.47		49.71		62.24		£13.19		Web site	£79.08		
0.00		18.00		0.00		£943.84		Tools and equipment	£0.00		
2.50		0.00		0.00				Photocopying	£0.00		
38.60		0.00		0.00		£421.55		Wassail costs	£143.91		
111.40		0.00		0.00		£147.33		Wassail charity Donation (food Bank)	£150.00		
17.77		0.00		0.00				Tea and sugar	£0.00		
63.60		0.00		0.00				Reinstate bench	£0.00		
287.53		0.00		0.00				Tree protection	£0.00		
566.87	387.81	67.71	320.10	62.24	457.86	£1,528.68		Total expenditure	£379.08		
<u>Closing Balances</u>											
387.81		320.10		457.86		£476.89		bank	£358.80		
0.00	387.81	0.00	320.10	0.00	457.86	£22.08		Petty cash	£22.08		
						£498.97	(inc £250 bench fund)	total	£380.88		
								Bench Fund (in Bank)	£250.00		
		Treasurer:	Sign			Date:					
		Peter Stathers									
		Audited by:	Sign			Date:					

5 Election of Officers

Chairman

Proposed by
Seconded by

Dave Parratt
Andy Wilkins
Helen Wilkie

Secretary

Proposed by
Seconded by

Helen Wilkie
Chris Wedge
John Wallace

Treasurer

Proposed by
Seconded by

Peter Stathers
John Wallace
Marion Wallace

Task and Events Co-ordinator

Proposed by
Seconded by

John Wallace
Chris Wedge
Allison Wilkins

All members present in agreement.

6 Any Other Business

A proposal to introduce a voluntary membership fee of £12 per year to support the Friends' work was made by Dave and seconded by John. All members present were in agreement. The voluntary payment year will be from 1 December to 21 November.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the Annual General Meeting.