

FRIENDS OF PUTNOE WOOD and MOWSBURY HILLFORT

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 June 2018 at 14a Woodfield Lane, Renhold

Members present: Jon Bishop, Lyn Caudrey, Martin Fannon, Sue Fannon, Sue Gadsden, 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 Vote of thanks

Dave Parratt opened the meeting by thanking Andy Wilkins for his work at Chairman of the group since it was first formed in 2011. A vote of thanks to Andy was proposed by John Wallace, seconded by John Wilkie and agreed by all members present.

2 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Robert Bright.

3 Minutes of meeting held on 10 April 2018 and matters arising

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising.

3 Update from Country Park Guardians and Borough representatives

Jon Bishop reported that both sites were looking good. He is monitoring oak and ash trees on both sites for signs of disease, and some work may be required next winter. Jon has asked for a meeting with James Lynch regarding the Mowsbury interpretation board, for which some prices have been obtained. It is proposed to site the board where the side of the bridle path opens on to the north-west side of Mowsbury Meadow; this will allow good views of the hillfort and meadow, and longer views across Bedford and beyond. Timothy Hopwell has e-mailed to explain that HLS capital funds are on hold until they are transferred to another department. Dave thought, however, that HLS money should still be available for on-going maintenance costs. He undertook to confirm the position with Timothy Hopwell NE.

4 Future Tasks and Events

John Wallace reported. Hillfort tasks over the next three weeks will cover the following:

- Pulling or slashing nettles on the north side of pond 2 looking over to Ravensden and the other side looking towards the island.
- Strimming the island and removal of arisings.
- Clearance of Orchard paths.
- General site management of ragwort, hemlock and hogweed.
- Nettle clearance in the dappled shade area, leaving a protective buffer of nettles.
- Weekly butterfly survey.
- Plant identification on meadow lead by Chris and Lyn.

Work in Putnoe Wood in July will include removal of debris and overhanging branches from the brook.

5 General task management

5.1 Tea rota. It was agreed that a rota of volunteers to provide tea each week will be drawn up. Members volunteered, and Helen will circulate the list.

5.2 Task leads. The following agreed to lead on tasks as follows:

IT Administration	Andy Wilkins
Educational visits co-ordination	Marion Wallace
Archaeology and History	Lynn Caudrey
Flora and Fauna	Chris Wedge
Special Events	Andy

5.3 Constitution. It was agreed that the Constitution needed review and revision. Dave, Helen and Mick agreed to form a working group to progress this and bring any proposed amendments to the next meeting.

6 Financial Matters

John Wilkie presented the latest figures.

	£
Money held in bank	433.55
Petty cash	0.00
Total	433.55

Transactions since last report:

Income:

Total Income	£0.00
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Outgoings:

Donation to Beds Bat Group	£50.00
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Leaving gifts	£37.90
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Total outgoings:	£87.90
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7 Any Other Business

Dave thanked Allison and Andy for hosting the meeting and the Friends' annual birthday celebration which was to follow.

8 Date of next meeting

7pm Tuesday 4 September at Cloverdale Retreat Café, Priory Country Park