

# FRIENDS OF PUTNOE WOOD and MOWSBURY HILLFORT

## Minutes of the General Meeting held on 18 July 2023 via Zoom.

**Members present:** Lynn Caudrey, Martin Fannon, Sue Fannon, Anne Lilliman, Dave Parratt, Peter Stathers, Diana Readhead, John Wallace, Chris Wedge, Andy Wilkins, Helen Wilkie, Allison Wilkins and Andy Wilkins.

1 **Apologies for absence** were received from Jon Bishop, Mick Lilliman, Chris Moss and Marion Wallace

2 **Minutes of last meeting held on Tuesday 30 May 2023 and Matters Arising.**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

3 **Update from Country Park Guardian.**

In Jon's absence there was no report.

4 **Future Tasks and Events**

John Wallace presented his report.

### **Putnoe Wood.**

- Remove debris from brook, trim growth from banks and remove any low overhanging vegetation.
- Trim edges of the green path especially the eastern section.
- Obtain more MOT gravel from Jon Bishop to use at entrances and to fill hollows along paths.
- Tree surgeon is required to remove broken branch hanging close to eastern path.

### **Mowsbury Hillfort.**

- Continue with butterfly survey.
- Continue golf ball collections. It was acknowledged that this is a difficult task now that the grass is high.
- Clean notice boards.
- Re-set right hand hanging post to large entrance gate to meadow.

### **Long term tasks in woods.**

- Replace or repair bench at eastern end of central path.
- Repair or replace posts supporting handrails on timber bridge on southern border of wood.
- The spread of small balsam in the woods, especially to the south side, was noted. Small Balsam can be hand-picked along paths and in northern coppice plots, but as this now going to seed, use of slashers or brush cutters would be counter-productive.

5 **Financial Matters**

Peter's financial report for 20 May 2023 was distributed in advance of the meeting.

Category	Brought Forward	Current Balances	Change
Money held in bank	£226.89	£226.89	0
Petty cash	£22.08	£22.08	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>£248.97</b>	<b>£248.97</b>	<b>0</b>

### **Transactions since last report:**

There were no transactions in the most recent period.

The grant received from the Bedford Borough Council to the value of £906.02 has now been fully spent. Dave Parrett was issued with these funds and appropriate equipment was purchased as shown in Appendix 1 to these minutes. Dave has generously offered to cover the £37.82 overspend.

There is still currently no debit card associated with the Bank Account. Peter is investigating options, but will need to try to make formal application through the bank which will include an on-line form signed by two signatories. Past history has not shown this to be easily proved. Peter apologised for not having resolved this matter to date.

## 6 Reports from members

**6.1. Green Flag Awards.** Chris W informed Friends that both the Hillfort and the Wood have been awarded Green Flags again. The embargo on the results was lifted as at 00:01h on 18 July, so the news can be freely disseminated. The judges' report for the Wood was very good. The report for the Hillfort had not yet been received. Chris has received Flags.

**6.2.** Andy noted that the **Bedford Borough Council Facebook page** had recently included a message 'Buzzing with Gratitude' thanking staff and volunteers who keep green spaces looking beautiful. John drew Friends' attention to the **CPRE Bedfordshire website** which gives details of a short wildlife and history walk around Mowsbury Hillfort and Putnoe Wood.

## 7 Any Other Business

**7.1.** Dave noted that there had been no follow up contact from Ravensden Parish Council following their expression of interest in erecting directional signs to the Hillfort.

**7.2.** Martin noted that the First Aiders was still waiting for their certificates. He will write to Jon to enquire about this.

**7.3** Lynn noted that the saplings planted along the southern edge of Mowsbury Meadow were doing well.

## 8 Date of next General Meeting

Tuesday 12 September 2023 via Zoom.

### APPENDIX 1 – Borough Funding spend 2023

1	Supplier	ITEM	Quantity	cost of order	order no./ref
2	GUSTH	safety glasses	8 x pr	235.68	121281
3	Screwfix	Forestry helmet/visor	2	59.98	A11547017480
4	Amazon	Hedge Shears	2 x pr	40.99	Amazon
5	Amazon	Safety Helmets	7	47.11	Amazon
6	Winchester	First Aid Kits	3	82.5	43389
7	Burgeon & Ball	Telescopic Loppers	2	90.97	53904
8	Zoro	Bowsaw Blades	6	35.94	cd396034-387099
9	Tool Chimp	Hay Rake	2	121.15	216830
		Manure Fork	2		
10	Screwfix	Slip vented helmets	7	56	A11756466873
11	GUSTH	Ear Defenders	4	173.52	121281
		Bypass Secateurs	4		

**TOTAL SPEND 943.84**

**Fund Received 906.02**

**Available to spend -37.82**

Overspend covered by D Parratt