

FRIENDS OF PUTNOE WOOD and MOWSBURY HILLFORT

Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 March 2021 via Zoom.

Members present: Jon Bishop, Lynn Caudrey, Martin Fannon, Sue Fannon, Dave Parratt, Chris Moss, Diana Readhead, John Wallace, Marion Wallace, Chris Wedge, Helen Wilkie, John Wilkie, Allison Wilkins, Andy Wilkins.

- 1 **Apologies for absence** were received from Anne and Mick Lilliman and Fiona Bucknall.
- 2 **Minutes of last meeting held on Tuesday 19 January 2021.** These were agreed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising.
- 3 **Update from Country Park Guardian**

Jon Bishop noted completion of coppicing for the season in Putnoe Wood. The Hillfort was in good order, and it had been agreed that no pruning would be carried out in the orchard this year. Claire Pick was gradually updating the Management Plan, but it was not a matter of priority. It was noted that there will be no plan for Mowsbury Park. It was evident that oak decline is getting worse in Putnoe Wood and that ash dieback will probably become more apparent. Jon noted two tasks requiring the Friends help namely: replacing the post supporting the pedestrian entrance gate to Mowsbury Meadow, and new fencing to the western side of Putnoe Wood. Both these tasks will need to wait until materials can be bought in the new financial year. Andy commented on the Mayor's announcement that 1000 trees will be planted in the Borough. Jon said that 300 had already been planted in Bedford.
- 4 **Future Tasks and Events**

John Wallace reported that the Friends will be able to resume working in socially distanced groups of six from Wednesday 31 March. The following tasks were identified:

 - 4.1 **Hillfort**
 - Removal of debris from ponds, the leat and moats once water levels drop.
 - Cutting back bramble and dogwood on Mowsbury Meadow, the ramparts and courtyard, taking care not to trample early plant growth.
 - Survey of the neglected orchard to identify any work needed.
 - Reinstallation of bench on Mowsbury Meadow once ground conditions allow.
 - Survey northern viewpoint where a way has been broken through the dead hedge, and assess any remedial work needed.
 - Remedial work on any trees to address minor damage.
 - 4.2 **Putnoe Wood**
 - The three cross paths require clearing. It was noted that notices announcing temporary closure of the paths will be needed while the work is being carried out.
 - Litter picking, especially around the camps created over the last year.
 - Cutting back branches of the fallen tree across the stream to the north of the wood.

5 Financial Matters

John Wilkie presented figures as at 16 March 2021.

Category	Brought Forward £	Current Balances £
Money held in bank	338.10	338.10
Petty cash	0.00	0.00
Total	338.10	338.10

Transactions since last report:

Income:

Total Income **£0.00**

Outgoings:

Total outgoings: **£0.00**

6 Friends Facebook Page.

Andy reported that he has created a new Facebook page entitled 'The Fellowship of Mowsbury Hillfort and Putnoe Wood' which is separate from and not directly connected to the Friends of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort page. The new page may carry similar posts as the Friends page, but it will enable him to represent wider environmental campaigning issues.

7 Reports from members - Green Flag Applications. Chris Wedge reported that she had received acknowledgements for the applications she had submitted for Mowsbury Hillfort and Putnoe Wood. The Hillfort would require a 'mystery shopper' assessment, and the Wood would require a full assessment.

8 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

9 Date of next meeting

7.00pm Tuesday 11 May 2021 via Zoom.