

FRIENDS OF PUTNOE WOOD and MOWSBURY HILLFORT

Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 January 2019 at Cloverdale Retreat Café, Priory Country Park

Members present: Jon Bishop, Robert Bright, Fiona Bucknall, Martin Fannon, Sue Fannon, Mick Lilliman, Chris Moss, Dave Parratt (Chairman), Diana Readhead, John Wallace, Marion Wallace, Jane Warner, Chris Wedge, Maggie West, Helen Wilkie, John Wilkie, Allison Wilkins, Andy Wilkins,

1 **Apologies for absence** were received from Lynn Caudrey.

2 **Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 22 November 2018**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

3 **Update from Country Park Guardians**

Jon Bishop reported.

3.1 Wassail 15 January 2019. This was the sixth Wassail; all went to plan and many positive comments had been received from those who attended. The Hemlock Dancers had also been pleased with the event. On behalf of the Friends, Marion asked Jon to convey thanks to Hemlock for their Mowsbury dance and song which were greatly appreciated. 81 people had registered to attend the event; 10 had withdrawn beforehand and people on the waiting list had been notified. Total attendance was down by 20 compared with the 2018 event. After discussion it was agreed to keep the maximum number of spaces available to the general public at 80.

A total of £149.36 was collected by Diana including a £10 donation after the event by her daughter. Andy reported total expenditure of £70.19 including for the purchase of a flask, jugs, apple pies, apple juice and biodegradable cups. It was agreed that the cost of the flask should be set against general funds. Batteries for the tree lights had also been bought and Jon Bishop was refunded from the tea float.

After discussion, it was agreed that the profits shall be donated to the Tibbs Dementia Foundation. John Wilkie will make contact. Andy suggested that the donation be rounded up to £100; no vote was taken. It was agreed that a decision as to which charity profits should be donated to shall be made in advance of the next Wassail so that the beneficiary charity can be advertised prior to and at the event.

3.2 Putnoe Wood. Jon is to meet John Wallace at Putnoe on Saturday 26 January to assess work that needs to be carried out, including glade clearance, and continuation of clearing up arisings from the latest coppicing.

3.2 Mowsbury Hillfort. Jon will arrange for contractors to prune the pear trees. Tom will bring brush-cutters and a long-arm saw for work planned for 23 January.

4 **Review of activities carried out in 2018.**

Lynn had produced documents covering activities in Putnoe Wood and the Hillfort which had been circulated with the Agenda. In view of her absence, it was agreed to carry forward this item until the next meeting. Thanks were conveyed to Lynn for producing the reports.

5 **Progress on Green Flag application**

Chris Wedge reported. She had completed the application for 2019. She had been advised that no planned inspection will take place this year, but the site will be subject to an unannounced 'Mystery Stop' inspection. It was noted that Mowsbury Park is not a Green

Flag location. Discussion took place about the possibility of making a Green Flag application for Putnoe Wood. Jon said that Claire Pick, BBC Economic Development Office, would need to be approached on this matter as she is responsible for drawing up the Management Plan for the Wood for which a Green Flag application could form a part.

6 Future Tasks and Events.

John Wallace reported.

6.1 Mowsbury. Tasks requiring attention include strimming the southern boundary line, pruning in the orchard, aerating soil under the Wassail tree, and de-stumping the leaf.

6.2 Putnoe Wood. Future work in the latest area coppiced includes: completing disposal of arisings from the coppicing and removal of stumps and small ash saplings. Other tasks: path clearance, ditch clearance, strimming in the southern glade.

7 Financial Matters

John Wilkie presented the latest figures.

Cash in Bank	£509.63
Petty Cash	£0.00
TOTAL	£509.63

Transactions since last report:

Income	
Tea Sales	£48.88
Sale of notelets	£16.00
TOTAL	£64.88

Outgoings	
Wassail batteries	£10.00
Web site	£34.74
TOTAL	£44.74

Outstanding creditor: Andy Wilkins £70.19 from Wassail income for purchase of pies etc, and from Friends funds for the flask

Ward Funding for tools: Quotations had been submitted, but no response received to date. Dave will chase this up.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Jackie Hawkins. Chris Wedge informed the Friends of the death of Jackie Hawkins at the end of November 2018. She had been a supporter of the Friends for several years.

8.2 Mark Rutherford School. Marion had been in contact with Sam Baker. The students who had been working with the Friends are now on study leave. The school is delighted to have made the link with the Friends and hope to continue working with us later this year.

9 Date of next meeting

7.00pm Tuesday 26 March 2019 at Cloverdale Retreat Café, Priory Country Park.