

FRIENDS OF PUTNOE WOOD and MOWSBURY HILLFORT

Minutes of the General Meeting held on 27 September 2022 via Zoom.

Members present: Lynn Caudrey, Martin Fannon, Sue Fannon, Anne Lilliman, Mick Lilliman (items 7 and 8), Chris Moss, Diana Readhead, Peter Stathers, John Wallace, Marion Wallace, Chris Wedge, Helen Wilkie, John Wilkie, Allison Wilkins and Andy Wilkins.

1 Apologies for absence were received from Jon Bishop, Mick Lilliman (items 1-6), Dave Parratt, and Chris Moss.

2 Minutes of last meeting held on Tuesday 19 July 2022. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising.

3 Update from Country Park Guardian.

In Jon's absence there was no update.

4 Future Tasks and Events

John Wallace identified activity for coming weeks.

4.1 Mowsbury Hillfort.

- Mowsbury Meadow entrance field gate – the gatepost requires re-setting.
- Rough meadow adjacent to southern path, and area between path and ramparts need brush cutting.
- It was noted that the apple trees in the orchard will need pruning, where required, in January.
- Wassail – Jon has said that Hemlock is keen to take part at an event on a Tuesday in January 2023.

4.2 Putnoe Wood.

- Installation of replacement edging boards to paths as identified in Mick's survey. Materials have been obtained. This may be a whole day task.
- Coppicing commencing in November. It may be necessary to brush cut the perimeter of coppicing plot, and Martin suggested that movement around the plot would be aided by bush cutting the whole area at the start. John will raise this with Jon Bishop.

5 Financial Matters

Peter presented a financial report as at 27 September 2022.

Category	Brought Forward	Current Balances
Money held in bank	257.86	457.86
Petty cash	0.00	0.00
Total	257.86	457.86

Transactions since last report:

Discussions with Nat West Complaints resulted in a compensation payment of £200 from NatWest Bank which has now been received into the account

Income:

Total Income **£200.00**

Outgoings:

Total outgoings: **£0.00**

Month Net change **+ £200.00**

Comments:

Banking issues have now been resolved and the account can now be accessed. Statements are now sent to Peter.

Discussion took place regarding the management of the Friends' bank account including internet transactions. John Wilkie explained the background to the purchasing mechanism as set out in the current Constitution which requires a requisition note signed by two authorised signatories for payments over £50, and one for payments of a lesser value. The purchase of an item or items agreed by a quorate meeting is also acceptable. In terms of reporting, a financial report is presented by the Treasurer at each General Meeting of the Friends and detailed annual accounts at the AGM. All Friends present agreed that this was an acceptable mechanism for the efficient running of the account and, in view of its very low turnover, that the account did not require an annual audit.

6 Reports from members –

There were no reports.

7 Any Other Business

7.1 Wildlife Survey of Mowsbury Meadow. Anne enquired about what happened to the data collected by the Friends' butterfly and wildflower surveys. Chris said that the butterfly data was uploaded to the British Butterfly Monitoring Survey who compile an annual National Report, and also sent to the County Butterfly recorder. The wildflower data collected from the quadrant surveys was sent to the Bedfordshire Wildlife Trust and had been used as evidence in our application for Mowsbury Meadow to be granted Reserve Status. The Trust did not require the Friends to continue with the quadrant surveys now that Reserve Status had been awarded. Anne enquired about the possibility of offering the Friends' data to other national surveys such as the Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment Programme. Chris said that this was possible but it would require considerable organisation.

7.2 Golf Balls. Sue raised the continuing problem of golf balls from the driving range being hit over the fence onto Mowsbury Meadow. It was noted that Fusion manages the golf course on behalf of the Borough Council, with the latter being ultimately responsible for the fence. John Wallace will speak to Dave and ask if he will talk to James Lynch about achieving a satisfactory resolution to the problem.

8 Date of next General Meeting

Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 29 November 7.00pm, followed by a General Meeting. The meetings will take place via Zoom.