

FRIENDS OF PUTNOE WOOD and MOWSBURY HILLFORT

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 9 June 2015 in the Function Room at Mowsbury Club House

Members present: Lynn Caudrey, Helen Miller, Dave Parratt, Diana Readhead, John Wallace, Marion Wallace, Christine Wedge, John Wilkie, Andy Wilkins (Chair), Alison Wilkins, Chris Moss, Jackie Hawkins and Robert Bright

1 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from: Ed Burnett, Margaret Fisher, Jane Warner, Jon Bishop, Martin Fannon, Sue Fannon Jane Moore, and Helen Wilkie

2 **Minutes of last meeting held on 10 February 2015**

These were agreed as an accurate record.

3 **Election of Officials**

The current office holders agreed to continue and there being no opposing candidates they were confirmed in the posts.

4.0 **Update from Green Space Officers**

4.1 Hillfort Leaflet. Lynn Caudrey confirmed that a copy of the proposed leaflet had been passed to Jane Moore and that comment was still awaited.

4.2 Green Space Officers. There was no input from the Green Space Officers. It was noted that no information had been received about the proposed talk on identification and habitat by Keith Balmer, County Butterfly recorder.

Post Meeting Note. Jane Moore was unable to attend but she sent an email to Andy Wilkins on 10 June 2015 which is self-explanatory and is appended to these minutes.

5.0 **Update, Future Tasks, Events and Funding**

5.1 Funding. Andy Wilkins confirmed that our bid is in the process of being checked to make sure it fits the criteria required for Ward funding and the initial response from Councillor Royden was encouraging. It was proposed that an approach be made to Councillor Moon for a similar grant.

5.2 Future Tasks. John Wallace outlined the future tasks for the next 3/4 weeks in Putnoe Wood, these were pulling and cutting Small Balsam, clearing paths and checking on the newly planted trees.

He further suggested that as we are now in the bird-nesting season a visit away from the wood and Hillfort might be considered. He suggested that Sharpenhoe might be interesting and this was accepted; he will fit this in the diary.

A proposal has been made that we could cut bramble and coppice elder on the banks of the Hillfort and the margins of the meadows. This will be programmed when appropriate.

Discussion about the future of "The Ash Tree" took place and it was suggested that the tree's appearance might be enhanced by judicious removal of some lower branches; this would also allow more light to reach the surrounding ground thus improving the conditions for wild flowers.

5.3 Nature Reserve Sign at Hillfort. It was reported that the new Hillfort sign had been installed. Andy Wilkins wished to record thanks to Ed Burnett for his work carving the lettering, this was seconded by all present.

6.0 Financial Matters

- 6.1 Financial Statement.** John Wilkie presented the closing financial statement for the period since the last AGM.
This showed that there had been a small fall in the value of the Friends' funds. This was due to the changing nature of the fund's income.
Discussion took place as to how this could or should be rectified. It was suggested that one way was to increase the donation asked for, for refreshments. A further set of notelets was also suggested. It was agreed that the tea donation would remain as it is and that Andy Wilkins would investigate producing a few set of notelets.
The full financial statement is appended to the minutes.
- 6.2 Hillfort Sign.** It was agreed that the friends would accept the cost of the bolts and oil used on the sign as their contribution to the overall cost.
- 6.3 Lottery Funding.** It was mentioned by Andy Wilkins that Friends of Park Wood Nature Reserve had received lotto funding for a carved bench.
- 6.4 Audit.** It was proposed that John Wilkie approach Martin Fannon to arrange for the accounts to be audited.
- 7.0 Any Other Business.**
- 7.1 Annual Dinner.** Christine Wedge asked that her thanks to John and Marion Wallace for their efforts in organising the annual dinner were noted, all present agreed.
- 7.2 Walks.** Christine Wedge noted that there would be a walk at the Hillfort by U3A on 21 January 2016.
- 7.3 Young Volunteers.** Discussion took place as to how, in the need to ensure safeguarding requirements, young people could be allowed to visit while the Friends were working on site. It was agreed that the advice of the Rangers should be sought.
- 8 Date of next meeting**
7.00pm Tuesday 11 August 2015 at the Mowsbury Club House.

Friends of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort

Annual Accounts as at 9 June 2015

		2013/14			2014/15	
Opening balances	bank	271.08			341.13	
	cash	35.06	306.14		34.44	375.57
Income		6.00		Sale of notelets	20.00	
		0.00		Easy fund raising	48.17	
				Ward funding (signs)	465.22	
		85.00		Sale of tea etc	0.00	
		32.00		Sale of juice	0.00	
		15.00		Talks	0.00	
		68.25		Wassail (net)	96.67	
		206.25	512.39	Total income	630.06	1005.6
Expenditure		0.00		Donation to Hemlock Morris	50.00	
		0.00		Reimburse J Wallace	465.22	
		0.00		Reimburse J Wilkie (Hillfort sign)	40.33	
		20.16		Web site	23.76	
		10.35		Printing	0.00	
		90.95		Flask, rakes etc	58.74	
		5.37		Tree survey	0.00	
		9.99		Paint	0.00	
		136.82	375.57	Total Expenditure	638.05	367.58
Closing balances	bank	341.13			325.23	
	cash	34.44	375.57		42.35	367.58
Carried forward			375.57			367.58

Treasurer:

Date:

Audited by:

Date: