

# FRIENDS OF PUTNOE WOOD and MOWSBURY HILLFORT

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 6 September 2016 at Mowsbury Clubhouse

**Members present:** Jon Bishop, Robert Bright, Lynn Caudrey, Martin Fannon, Sue Fannon, Mick Lilliman, Chris Moss, Dave Parratt, Diana Readhead, John Wallace, Marion Wallace, Chris Wedge, Helen Wilkie, John Wilkie, Andy Wilkins (Chair), Allison Wilkins,

### 1 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Danny Fellman, Helen Miller, Paul Pace and Jane Warner.

### 2 Minutes of meetings held on Tuesday 12 July 2016

These were agreed as an accurate record.

### 3 Election of Officials

Martin Fannon proposed that the following be re-appointed, those named having indicated their willingness to serve for another year:

Andy Wilkins	Chair
Helen Wilkie	Secretary
John Wilkie	Treasurer
John Wallace	Task and Event Co-ordinator

This was seconded by Sue Fannon and agreed by all members present.

### 4 Update from Country Park Guardians

Jon Bishop reported.

#### 4.1 First Aid Refresher Course. A date for the half day course is awaited.

#### 4.2 Mowsbury Hillfort

**4.2.1 Grass cutting Mowsbury Hill Meadow.** Quotations for the work have been requested and results awaited.

**4.2.2 Widening of entrance to meadow.** Delivery of a replacement gate post is awaited, the first delivered having been rejected as not fit for purpose.

**4.2.3 HLS Funding for Archaeological investigation.** Information on funding and how to progress this is still awaited from Natural England.

**4.2.4 Old Butts.** Permission from the Golf Club to gain access to this area is still awaited. Discussion took place as to the amount of work that was appropriate to be carried out given that the Butts were not part of the Hillfort in terms of Scheduling and the Management Plan. It was noted that the Butts has a separate entry on the HE Register. It was agreed that we should acknowledge its existence, but not expend effort in terms of site management.

**4.2.5 Wassail.** Subject to confirmation with Hemlock, this will take place on Tuesday 10 January 2017.

**4.2.6 Work at the Hillfort.** Discussion took place regarding the overall effect of work we have carried out over the site, and the extent of future work. It was acknowledged that since its involvement the Friends Group has done much to improve and protect the site in terms of general access, revealing and preserving the archaeology, and improving the flora. However, it was agreed that we need to strike a balance between continuing with that work and guarding against the removal of too much vegetation with the attendant risk of producing a landscape that appeared too manicured and detracted from the natural wildness of the environment.

#### 4.3 Putnoe Wood

**4.3.1 Gates, fence, wheelchair access.** A new supplier is awaited.

**4.3.2 Disused BMX site.** Andy agreed to take over investigations into the future of the site.

## **5 Future Tasks and events**

**5.1 Bedford Walking Festival.** A walk covering the wood and hillfort will take place on Sunday 18 September, starting at the Four Seasons Café at 1pm Andy and Helen W will assist.

**5.2 Interpretation Boards for Hillfort.** Andy and Lyn are working on ideas. Members present expressed the view that one board would be sufficient.

**5.3 Community Volunteering Newsletter.** John Wallace reported that Katie Percival, Bedford Borough Council Events and Community Engagement officer, was producing this newsletter which included a reference to the Friends' Group. There is no budget for printing the newsletter, so it will only be available in electronic format. Members present agreed that delivery of a printed copy to the Putnoe Library and Bedford Park Café would be helpful.

## **6 Financial Matters**

John Wilkie presented Annual Accounts. A copy is appended to these minutes. It was noted that funds had increased by £278 over the past year including by the sale of Notelets, the net profit from which was £247.

Members requested acquisition of two 3-pronged pitchforks. Mick will enquire if the Friends can have two forks which the Canal Group no longer has need of. John Wilkie will investigate prices for purchase of forks if necessary.

## **7 Any Other Business**

**7.1 Freemans Common.** Andy reported that the Borough Council had issued a statement that there is no proposal to sell the land and no consultation on any such proposal is planned.

**7.2 Tesco's Bags of Help.** Tesco's have opened up the range of projects that can bid for financial support from the money raised by the 5p bag charge to include volunteer training, equipment purchases, community events and sports and leisure activities. Members were asked to suggest ideas under the training and equipment purchase categories.

## **10 Date of next meeting**

7.00pm, Tuesday 8 November at Mowsbury Clubhouse.

Appendix 1

Friends of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort

Annual Accounts as at 6 September 2016

		2014/15			2015/16	
<b>Opening balances</b>	<b>bank</b>	341.13			325.23	
	<b>cash</b>	34.44	<b>375.57</b>		42.35	<b>367.58</b>
<b>Income</b>		20.00		Sale of notelets	318.00	
		48.17		Easy fund raising	15.19	
		465.22		Ward funding	474.00	
		0.00		Sale of tea etc	114.80	
		96.67		Wassail donations	209.00	
		630.06	<b>1005.63</b>	Total income	1130.99	<b>1,498.57</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		50.00		Donation to Hemlock Morris	0.00	
				Donation to Prebend Street	66.00	
		465.22		Reimburse J Wallace	0.00	
				Purchase bench	410.76	
		40.33		Reimburse J Wilkie (Hillfort sign)	0.00	
		23.76		Web site	23.76	
		0.00		Printing	70.73	
		58.74		Tools and equipment	305.61	
		0.00		Wassail costs	76.38	
		0.00		Paint	0.00	
		638.05	<b>367.58</b>	Total Expenditure	953.24	<b>545.33</b>
<b>Closing balances</b>	<b>bank</b>	325.23			545.33	
	<b>cash</b>	42.35	<b>367.58</b>		0.00	<b>545.33</b>
<b>Carried forward</b>			<b>367.58</b>			<b>545.33</b>

Treasurer:

Date:

Audited by:

Date: