

FRIENDS OF PUTNOE WOOD and MOWSBURY HILLFORT

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 8 December 2015 in the Committee Room at Mowsbury Club House

Members present: Jon Bishop, Lynn Caudrey, Martin Fannon, Sue Fannon, Helen Miller, Dave Parratt, Diana Readhead, Helen Wilkie, John Wilkie, Andy Wilkins (Chair), Allison Wilkins, and Jane Moore

1 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Danny Fellman, Margaret Ibbett, John Wallace, Marion Wallace, Jane Warner and Chris Wedge

2 Minutes of last meeting held on 13 October 2015

These were agreed as an accurate record.

3.0 Update from Green Space Officers

3.1 Mowsbury Hillfort Update. Jane reported that Geoff Saunders, Archaeology Officer, had visited the site to consider how the Conservation Management Plan could be progressed. Funding of £32,000 from Natural England on completion of work carried out under the HLS plan was still available, and Jane will chase this before she leaves her post. Jane is still working on the Management Plan for Mowsbury Hillfort and Community Green Flag status, including chasing data from the BNHS recorders' survey. She volunteered her help to continue with the Community Green Flag status application after she has left her post. The Young Archaeologists Group has expressed an interest in visiting the site, and Albion is aware. Jane suggested that the next British Festival of Archaeology (16-31 July 2016) could be an opportunity to promote Mowsbury.

3.2 Putnoe Wood. Andy presented an email report from Danny. Coppicing of plot 1g and scallop was almost complete, and Danny extended thanks to the Friends for their work. Necessary felling of trees had taken place where these were diseased or unsafe, including removal of smaller trees to allow for vehicular access. Some more felling work remains to be done, plus removal of smaller shrubs and brambles which could be done by the Friends.

4.0 Update on Graze Hill, Freemans Common and Renhold Green Corridor.

Andy reported that David Sawyer, Chairman of the General Purposes Committee and Chairman of Trustees, had said that the Common would be sold if the Trustees thought this would be in the best interest of the Freeman's Common Charity. Andy had requested that he be given details of the commissioner appointed by the Charities Commission to oversee the sale, should this go forward. He was informed that, If and when the trustees decide to consider the sale of any of the land, we would be informed what information was submitted to the Charity Commission, and it this would probably be in the public domain.

It was noted that the Local Plan 2032 had not listed Freemans Common as a development site at this time. A call for public responses to the Local Plan Plan closed on 14 December. The consultation responses will need to be considered and proposed allocations of sites to meet the Borough's development needs will be drawn up for inclusion in a 'pre-submission' consultation version of the Local Plan. This is timetabled to be approved and published for consultation in autumn 2016.

5 Future tasks and Event. Andy presented an email report from John Wallace listing future tasks for Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury. Jon and Andy went through arrangements for the Wassail on Tuesday 19 January 2016 including preparatory site work on Monday 18th and the afternoon of the 19th, and allocation of tasks among volunteers from the Friends. Jane had passed the Wassail Management Plan to the Friends and Jon for update. It was confirmed that a maximum of 80 attendees can be permitted, plus Morris, Stewards etc. Catering will be based on 110-120.

6 Financial Matters

John Wilkie presented the latest figures:

Cash in Bank	£536.69
Petty Cash	£35.81
TOTAL	£572.50

Transactions since last report:

Income

Sale of notelets	£204.00
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Outgoings

Sundries for bench	£16.76
Notelets	£70.73
TOTAL	£87.49

Liabilities

Unused Ward Funding	£63.24
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(reduced by £16.76 since last report – sundries for bench)

Future costs

Brazier for Wassail

7.0 Any Other Business. A presentation was made to Jane to thank her for her support and encouragement of the Friends group and its work at Mowsbury Hillfort.

8.0 Date of next meeting

7.00pm Tuesday 16 February 2016 at the Mowsbury Club House.