

FRIENDS OF PUTNOE WOOD and MOWSBURY HILLFORT

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 11 August 2015 in the Committee Room at Mowsbury Club House

Members present: Lynn Caudrey, Margaret Ibbett, Helen Miller, Dave Parratt, Diana Readhead, John Wallace, John Wilkie, Andy Wilkins (Chair), Allison Wilkins, Robert Bright Martin Fannon, Sue Fannon, and Jane Moore

1 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from: Ed Burnett, Jane Warner, Danny Fellman, Jon Bishop, Helen Wilkie, Marion Wallace, Christine Wedge, Chris Moss and Jackie Hawkins

2 **Minutes of last meeting held on 9 June 2015**

These were agreed as an accurate record.

3.0 **Update from Green Space Officers**

Jane Moore reported as follows:

- 3.1 Hillfort Leaflet. The leaflet had been returned but it needs further work. Jane will arrange a meeting with the designers for herself and Lynn.
- 3.2 The BNHS recorders who had visited the site and she will ask for details of any significant findings.
- 3.3 She is hopeful that the cut and collect for Mowsbury Meadow can be arranged within the next two weeks.
- 3.4 She has noted that the pulling of ragwort had made a difference. Agreed, if time ran out for more pulling, it would be better to cut off the flower heads rather than let them go to seed
- 3.5 Andy Wilkins raised the possibility of differing management regimes for certain areas of the Hillfort. For example, allowing areas of archaeological interest to be treated differently to those where the prime consideration is the environment or wildlife.
- 3.6 The Friends offered to help with the production of the Management Plan for the Hillfort. Jane said she needed to do further work before this would be feasible.
- 3.7 John Wallace read from an email received from Danny Fellman as follows:

“There is little to report about the wood, except the Friends have put a lot of work of work managing the ride edges and small balsam. The ride edges look much better and as for the balsam we will have to wait and see.

The Recorder’s Day visited the wood in the afternoon and they thought it was a nice wood the highlight was an uncommon fern hard shield fern which provided some excitement.

I have started looking at the winter schedule and it will be much the same as last year, but I will provide a list of Specific tasks in due course.

Thanks for all the hard work”

Danny

4.0 Update, Future Tasks, Events and Funding

4.1 Future Tasks

John Wallace reported that future tasks would include the following:

Hillfort: more ragwort clearance, assist with cut and collect on Mowsbury Hill Meadow, general site management, reduce load on fruit trees and careful pruning in neglected orchard.

Putnoe Wood: clear along the North path, small balsam bashing and general site management. Danny is investigating sources of oak to replace the metal entrance gates at the SW and SE corners which are rusting and rotting at ground level. In addition, they do not comply with current DDA regulations for public access.

4.2 Funding. Andy Wilkins confirmed that ward funding for the bench at the top of Mowsbury Hill Meadow had been approved by the Borough. The Monmouth oak bench would be ordered when the money arrived in the Friends' account.

5.0 Financial Matters

5.1 Financial Statement. John Wilkie presented the latest figures,

Received from tea fund	£29.90
Held in bank	£325.23
Held in cash	£72.25
Total funds available	£397.48

5.2 Post meeting note: Annual accounts presented at the last meeting were audited on 10 August 2015.

6.0 Any Other Business.

6.1 Andy Wilkins presented some photographic images for consideration for the new notelets. He asked if anyone had other suitable photographs and it would be helpful to have them for consideration. His suggested a maximum of twenty are put forward for discussion before agreeing the final four images. It was hoped to review all the images at the next meeting and make a decision to enable the print order to be placed.

6.2 Discussion took place concerning the possibility of seeking Community Green Flag status for the Hillfort. Jane Moore agreed to find out what was involved with making an application for this award.

7.0 Date of next meeting

7.00pm Tuesday 13 October 2015 at the Mowsbury Club House.