

Friends of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 17th September 2013 in the trophy Room at Mowsbury Club House

Members Present –Martin Fannon, Sue Fannon,, Helen Miller, Jane Moore, Diana Readhead, John Wallace, Chris Wedge, John Wilkie, Allison Wilkins, Andy Wilkins

1. Apologies

Jon Bishop, Ed Burnet, Larissa Clark, Margaret Fisher, Marion Wallace, Helen Wilkie

2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of 9th July were agreed as being correct, the date for the present meeting had been changed.

3. Update from Park Rangers

- Jane reported that she had sent plans in to Francis at Natural England for the HLS at the Hillfort. She hopes this will bring money for improvement of the ponds, scrub clearing around archaeological sites (a 10 year programme), a hydrological survey of the pond and the leat, tree surgeons for the fruit trees in the orchard and in the 'secret' orchard and help with the outer meadow to bring it up to the standard of the courtyard meadow. Jane said it is important to keep plans simple at the moment.
- There are enough funds to try and have a cut and collect done on the outer meadow. Jane has approached the Head of Ground Maintenance. Jane might have to cut it herself so she asked if the Friends Group could help by cutting some of the blackthorn stumps etc. We agreed to do this on 18th September.
- There is still talk of increasing the BMX track at Mowsbury Park, possibly using the site of the old tree nursery. Jane will ask to look at the plans.
- The latest newsletter has been sent to Francis at Natural England.
- The replacement fruit trees can be planted in the orchard at the end of October.
- We were asked to remove any fruit we wanted from the trees in the orchard as the branches are looking very heavy.
- The sleeper sign for the Hillfort can be put in when we are ready.
- The fencing at Putnoe Wood is due to be finishes soon. Jane will e-mail around to let people know.

4. Interpretation Boards

John Wallace reported that the group had been to see the Designers who were positive about the plans so far. They hope to meet them again by mid-October. Andy has prepared story boards in publisher for the group to work on which is very helpful. Larissa is checking with the manufacturers about the time scale for production. The aim is to have the boards completed and possibly installed by the end of this financial year.

5. Future tasks and events

- To carry on with the programme set out by John Wallace
- One of the paths in Putnoe Wood needs attention
- Thin some of the woodland at the edge of the meadow
- Investigate a burn site at the edge of the outer meadow at the Hillfort, we would have to extend the volunteer time to check the fire is out. We might investigate the possibility of getting water from the Golf Club
- Dave Barnes could be asked to do a Bird Walk in the Spring. This should be advertised.
- A possible talk on badgers was suggested. Jane will investigate
- Keith Balmer may be interested in doing a survey at the Hillfort to see if there are any reptiles on site(permission will be needed)

6. Financial matters

John Wilkie reported the following figures.

	£.p
Money in Bank	317.08
Petty cash	21.06
Friends' tea fund	50.45
Sub-total	388.59
Unsold cards	20.00
Grand total	408.59

12. Any Other Business

The HLF bid was registered to go for funding but it would need someone who was prepared to run it. There are some bird boxes left. It was suggested these could go up in the Hillfort.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday December 3rd at 7-00pm, in the Trophy Room