

Friends of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th June 2014 in the Function Room at Mowsbury Club House

Members Present – Lynn Caudrey, Sue Fannon, Helen Miller, Jane Moore, Chris Moss, Dave Parratt, Diana Readhead, John Wallace, Marion Wallace, Chris Wedge, John Wilkie, Allison Wilkins, Andy Wilkins

1. **Apologies** - Jon Bishop, Ed Burnett, Martin Fannon, Margaret Fisher, Helen Wilkie

2. **Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes of 8th April 2014 were agreed as being correct.

3. **Update from Park Rangers**

- The Nature Reserve sign is almost finished and Jane needs to check with Ed when he will be able to deal with the carving for the information post
- Frances Prince from English Nature passed on thanks for the work done. Jane will enquire about getting a survey of the water levels at the Hillfort, it will be beneficial to keep more water in the ditches to help preserve any archaeology in the ditches
- There could be funding available to help clear the leat stream from Cleat Hill. Jane to enquire
- Jane is putting together information on the surveys done at the Hillfort
- We will need to start pulling the ragwort when the rosettes are large enough. Jane can borrow some tools from Andy Fleckney (Wildlife Trust). She suggested we remove some teasels to stop them becoming too dominant
- Jon Bishop thinks the badgers are building a new sett so need to keep an eye on that
- Jane suggested we start to think about information for interpretation boards etc for the Hillfort. We might get some funding from English Heritage. Jane said a history leaflet would be useful and she would forward an earlier version produced before the formation of the Friends
- Jane handed over 4 clipboards for use on surveys
- Ed has suggested extending the wood to include the wet area on the west side. This lies between the wood and the cluster of trees next to the original BMX track. Andy was concerned about litter that gathers in this area and asked who will be responsible during the in-between period
- There will be the usual events during the British Festival of Archaeology (14-28 July) and Jane enquired if there could be a guided walk of the Hillfort. Jane to confirm the suggested date for the guided walk.

4. **Interpretation Boards**

These have been made and delivered to Borough hall. These will be collected and put in by James Parrott .

5. **Update on recent activities**

- The Hillfort Atlas has been completed ,thanks to Lynn
- The fruit tree mapping has been completed and the co-ordinates of 49 trees have been recorded
- The butterfly survey continues. Martin has helped work out the transect and put it 'on line'. We are waiting for Keith Balmer to give it the OK before we register it. Then we will be able to put our results in and compare from year to year.
- 5 ash trees have been tagged in Putnoe Wood and in the Hillfort. When anything happens to these it will be recorded. This is part of a national survey
- Laura Downton has suggested we record the plants in the outer meadow on two occasions each year, in April/early May and again in early July. This could be in 10-15 2 metre squares. We are grateful for her help. We suggested we make a start on 11th June and try out with smaller areas. Marion has some hoops we could use.

6. **Future tasks and events**

- John suggests we think about joining a working group to consider the Hillfort interpretation boards.
- Clearing path edges and small balsam pulling in Putnoe Wood. Bramble management in the autumn
- Danny has suggested an autumn tree planting programme in the wood, details were circulated.
- Nettle clearance at the Hillfort and dead wood clearance to the stoned fruit trees

7. Financial Matters

Category	£££.pp
Money held in bank	341.13
Petty cash	34.44
Total	375.57

Transactions since last report:

Income:

Tuesday Club talk £15.00

Tea money £30.00

Outgoings:

Survey labels etc. £5.37

Wassail £15.79

Flask, rakes, cultivators £90.95

Net expenditure (£67.11)

8. Any other Business

- Marion is keeping a record of the Bumble bees that we see during the butterfly survey and it was suggested we contact Colin Carpenter about this.
- John Wallace enquired about the possibility of establishing a permissive path from Putnoe Wood to Mowsbury Hillfort. This might involve a gate within the Council compound near the new BMX track. Jane suggested he initially contact Ed Burnett about this.
- On 11th June (tomorrow) Chris Wedge is leading a walk around the Hillfort for the Local Group of the Wildlife Trust.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 12th August 2014 in the Function Room at Mowsbury Golf Club