

Friends of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6th November 2012 in the Trophy Room at Mowsbury Club House

Members Present - Alison Wilkins, Andy Wilkins, Diana Readhead, Helen Miller, Larissa Clarke, John Wallace, Helen Wilkie, John Wilkie, Jon Bishop, Sue Fannon, Martin Fannon Chris Mackay, Chris Wedge,

1. **Apologies** – Jane Moore, Ed Burnett, Marion Wallace

2. **Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes of 4th September agreed as correct

3. **Update from Park Rangers**

- Andy had received an email from Ed Burnett saying some trees at the Hillfort needed attention. This could be a joint activity with Friends and the Rangers.
- After a walk around the Hillfort with some members of the Group Jane has produced a work plan which Andy will circulate.
- Jon said he was very pleased with all the work that the Friends Group has achieved at the Hillfort

4. **Update on Borough's Draft Green Space Strategy**

Andy has filled in the questionnaire and commented on our behalf. He said we support the Green Space Strategy in principle but there are concerns over funding and staffing.

He also said that the adjacent field to the Hillfort i.e. 'The Outer Meadow' should be included.

The cutbacks planned for 2015 will affect this strategy, it may not be possible to carry it out and plans will have to be 'watered down'

5. **Update on Borough's Funding Cuts**

The borough is planning up to 60% cutback to projects like Bedford in Bloom, Marston Vale etc. This probably won't affect us.

6. **Green Borough Fair**

This is on 24th November in the Harpur Centre from 10 am - 3pm (access from 8-4)

John Wallace has applied for a stall for the Group.

3 cases of apple juice have been ordered which we will sell at £1 per mug. We can also sell mulled apple juice

Other possibilities are demonstrating and taking orders for obelisks (£10 suggested price), bird boxes, teasels and cones for Christmas decorations etc.

We will also have a photograph display and information to promote our Group.

John will organise a rota of volunteers for the day.

Information will go on the website.

7. **Future Tasks and Events**

- Keep clearing the old orchard
- Another Wassail Event in January, 21st or 28th are suggested dates
- A possible archaeology walk, Jane is investigating possible dates.
- Jon is leading a tree identification session at Putnoe Wood on Saturday 10th November

8. **Rights of Way, cooperation and Training**

Andy and John Wallace have been on a training course and have volunteered to check some paths. Volunteers in the Group could take this on for local paths in the future.

Alison, Helen and John and Helen Wilkie are attending another course on 10th November.

9. Hillfort Survey

A friend of Chris Mackay is an Amateur Archaeologist who is prepared to carry out a survey at the Hillfort to see if he can find any indication of buildings etc. We agreed that the more we can find out the better it will be.

10. Fund raising Initiatives

John Wilkie suggested we could make a number of obelisks for selling at future events
The cards have been a success and this could possibly be repeated

11. Financial Matters

We have £46-08 in the bank and £96-43 in cash, making a total of £142-51.

John (Treasurer) hopes that after the Green Borough Fair we will have more available cash so that he can have some organisation in place for buying and selling items. This will make it easier to keep the accounts.

12. Christmas/New Year Get- Together

As we have a Wassail Event planned we decided to postpone a social event until the second anniversary of the Group(March 2013)

13. Any Other Business

There will be another pruning course in February at a council orchard.

14. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 8th January 2013, hopefully in the Trophy Room again.