

Friends of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th January 2013 in the Trophy Room at Mowsbury Club House

Members Present - Jon Bishop, Larissa Clarke, Sue Fannon, Martin Fannon, Margaret Fisher, Helen Miller, Jane Moore, Diana Readhead, Marion Wallace, John Wallace, Chris Wedge, Helen Wilkie, John Wilkie, Allison Wilkins, Andy Wilkins,

1. **Apologies** – Chris Mackay

2. **Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes of 6th November 2012 agreed as correct

3. **Update from Park Rangers**

Matters will be dealt with elsewhere

4. **Wassail Event**

This will be on 21st January and will follow the same pattern as last year, but will start at 7-00pm. Jon, Jane etc will go up to the Hillfort on Friday (18th) and Monday (21st) to check area, set up braziers, fill in rabbit holes etc. Larissa will prepare some toast and bring some polystyrene cups.

Friends who are free will meet at approximately 3-00pm at the Hillfort on Monday afternoon to help and have a run-through.

The event will be advertised, stressing that booking is essential to give some idea of numbers. We will get the appropriate number of flasks for the apple juice and share these out when we have an idea of numbers.

It was suggested we meet from 6-30pm at the golf club car park and take visitors up in groups of about 10 people. People should be made aware of any dangers but also that they go at their own risk.

Diana will collect donations to help cover cost of refreshments etc. (£2 suggested)

Jane suggested Jeremy Oetgen and Vanessa Clarke, as people involved with the group, be invited.

5. **Future Tasks and Events**

- Jane talked about the possibility of the group applying for a Green Flag Community Award. She had looked at the criteria and the group covered many aspects and thought it would get recognition for the work and enthusiasm of the group as a whole. The deadline for application is 24th February. It might also lead to valuable ideas for future development. We will seek further information.
- Andy has received and circulated communications about a possible geophysical survey, maybe of the inner court yard. He will ask the people involved to come and have a look around to suggest a suitable area. Vanessa Clarke should be informed and the issue discussed with her.
- John Wallace said that David Fowler was interested in finding out more about the Hillfort. As he has been involved in the putting together of various information boards in town, at Browns Wood etc he might help us produce some for the Hillfort. We need to get permission for the various sites we thought might be suitable for information boards. Jon said that there were some cabinets etc. at Priory that we could possibly use.
- We had previously suggested that Jeremy Oetgen from Albion Archaeology might lead another guided walk this winter before the leaves come out. Jane will see if he has a suitable date free.
- Ed Burnet has some oak benches for Putnoe Wood that could be placed near the site lines to the Hillfort. This will involve digging some deep holes!

- There is coppicing to finish at Putnoe Wood.

6. Financial Matters

- We have £196–08 in the bank plus
- £13 06 in petty cash and £10 from sale of apple juice with John Wilkie £30-83 from tea money and £4 from sale of notelets with Andy Wilkins making a total of £57-89 in cash and a grand total of £253-97
- Larissa said that Jackie Fraser had some money available that we could spend. It was suggested that we need a first aid kit and spend any money left on good quality tools.
- Finger posts pointing to the Hillfort could be purchased
- We need to get some idea of the exact costs for the notice boards if we are to apply for funding.

7. Any Other Business/Future Tasks

- There is another 'Pruning Course' on Thursday 21st February. As before it will involve a half day at Park Wood Community Orchard, followed by lunch and then at the Hillfort. Anyone interested should contact Larissa.
- There is a Wildflower sale on Sunday 21st April at Priory where we could advertise the group, sell obelisks etc to raise funds.
- Marion said that some people at her allotment site were interested in learning how to make obelisks. We could hold a demonstration event at Priory, have refreshments and charge about £10, including an obelisk to take away.
- There is a Seed Exchange event at Bunyan centre on 2nd March from 10am – 1pm
- It is almost time for our Second Year Celebration Event. This could be on 19th March, at Priory Visitor Centre and a 'Bring a Plate' as last year. Jane will check Priory Diary. (**See note below**)

8. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 5th March 2013, hopefully in the Trophy Room again.

**After the meeting Jane checked the dates in the Priory diary and the 19th March is booked so she has provisionally booked 9th April for our celebration.