

Friends of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th February 2014 in the Function Room at Mowsbury Club House

Members Present –Larissa Clarke, Lynn Caudrey, Jackie Hawkins, Helen Miller, Jane Moore, Dave Parratt, Diana Readhead, John Wallace, Marion Wallace, Chris Wedge, Helen Wilkie, John Wilkie, Allison Wilkins, Andy Wilkins

1. **Apologies** - Jon Bishop, Margaret Fisher

2. **Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes of 3rd December 2013 were agreed as being correct.

3. **Update from Park Rangers**

- Jane reported that she is well underway with the application for a Green Flag Community Award for the work done by the group
- Andy asked for further information about the HLS agreement for the Hillfort (see last minutes). Jane will bring details for people to see
- Danny has sent an email to suggest a meeting of a few members about the possible re- routing of the Putnoe Wood path. John Wallace will contact him about this
- There has been a very positive feedback about all aspects of the Wassail Evening. The sawdust path was an excellent idea

4. **Interpretation Boards**

These are almost ready for production and Larissa brought the final copy for people to see. These have to be approved by the Borough and can then be sent to the manufacturers. The QR codes are in place but this aspect will need more work/discussion. It has been decided to have an extra Introduction/History board so there will be an identical one at the two main entrances to Putnoe Wood.

5. **Future tasks and events**

- John Wallace reported that the remaining winter tasks are bramble management in the wood, pruning of the apples and pears in the orchard(early March at the latest), blocking off the entrance to the inner island, possible re-routing the path in Putnoe Wood and completing the removal of scrub on the southern ramparts at the Hillfort
- As Spring might be early we must be aware and stop scrub clearance soon
- Snowdrops are out in Putnoe wood and it would be interesting to plot where these are for future reference as they may be spreading
- Dave Barnes has offered to do a guided bird walk at Putnoe to look out for Spring migrants. This must be advertised
- Jon Bishop has offered to do another 'Foraging walk' at the Hillfort later in the year
- Some County Recorders are interested in looking at which species are at the Hillfort
- Jane would like another survey of plants in the outer meadow, courtyard meadow and inner island so we can compare with one done the year before last
- There has been an invitation for one or two to look at some Archaeological records from 1971-72 when there was a dig at the Hillfort
- We have had a request to give another talk at the end of April. Andy will check the date and then we can make arrangements.

6. Financial matters

John Wilkie reported the following figures.

Financial Report as at 4 February 2014

Category	£££.pp
Money held in bank	432.08
Petty cash	20.59
Total	452.67

Transactions since last report:

Income:

Tea money received	£25.00
Sale of notelets	£6.00
Wassail	£84.04
Total	£115.04

Outgoings:

Printing costs	£3.60
Web site	£20.16
Total	£23.76

7 Friends 3rd Annual Party

We agreed that we would like to celebrate the end of the 3rd year of the group and 11th March was suggested. Larissa is going to see if we could hold this at the White Horse in Newnham Avenue. Members will be kept informed.

8 Any Other Business

- Jane is trying to book some brush cutting training for two people, hopefully the cost will be met by the Borough.
- As this is the last meeting when Larissa attends in her official capacity we thanked her for all her hard work and enthusiasm. She has done such a lot for the Group and we wish her well.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 8th April 2014, 7-00pm, Mowsbury Golf Course, in the Function Room. This will also involve the AGM

(NB Jane has since reported that The Visitor Centre at Priory is booked on Tuesday evenings in March so if the White Horse is not available a different date or venue will have to be found)

The White Horse have pencilled the group in for the Tuesday 11th March from 7pm. Further information to follow.