

Friends of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th April 2014 in the Function Room at Mowsbury Club House

Members Present – Ed Burnett, Lynn Caudrey, Martin Fannon, Sue Fannon, Danny Fellman, Margaret Fisher, Helen Miller, Chris Moss, Dave Parratt, Diana Readhead, John Wallace, Marion Wallace, Chris Wedge, Helen Wilkie, John Wilkie, Allison Wilkins, Andy Wilkins

1. **Apologies** - Jane Moore

2. **Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes of 4th February 2014 were agreed as being correct.

3. **Concerns about Putnoe Wood**

Concerns have been expressed by some recreational users of Putnoe Wood about the work being done by the Rangers and Volunteers, suggesting too many trees were being felled. Andy has produced a Question and Answer sheet to explain why this is important for management to maintain the health of the wood. This is available on the website. Danny was thanked for coming to meet the volunteers at Putnoe Wood to talk to everyone about their concerns. Danny expressed his thanks for a good job of creating the new paths.

4. **Update from Park Rangers**

- The Nature Reserve sign can be reinstated at the entrance to the Hillfort
- The information post can be put at the bottom of the outer meadow. Ed suggested he might have a better post to use (see later in minutes for naming meadow, information boards and future tasks)
- Jane is trying to source a piece of corrugated iron for a sacrificial site for burning cuttings etc. at the Hillfort.
- Some carpet tiles have been put down in the Hillfort to do some research on the reptile population there.
- Thanks were expressed to Lynn and Dave for the research they are doing on the history of the Hillfort.

5. **Borough Local Plan**

Andy circulated Guidance on the Local Plan 2032. The main significance for us is the proposed 'Local Green Space' designation which is a way of providing protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities. It would be a good idea to work towards getting the outer meadow designated as such. Suggestions included naming the meadow as 'Mowsbury Hill Meadow' and putting this name on the post so it is recognised locally Also carrying out a detailed survey of the plants in the hope we are creating a flower-rich meadow habitat.

6. **Interpretation Boards**

These have been finally approved by the Borough and are in the process of being manufactured. The supports are being made and put in by James Parrott and it is hoped all will be completed in May. The old cabinet at the entrance to the wood will be removed and a new one put in.

7. **Future tasks and events**

Putnoe Wood

- Spring Flower survey
- Clearing path edges, especially path 2
- Tidying up along the new paths, Danny will chain saw the stumps
- Check trees that were planted to see if they have 'taken'
- Put a 'bund' in the stream to control flow and retain a minimum level of water.
- Keep Danny informed of the species found in the wood as he is keeping a record

Mowsbury Hillfort

- Wildflower survey
- Butterfly survey
- Put tree guards around orchard trees

- Prune the plum trees
- Put up sign and posts
- Keep path edges clear
- 1st pond might need some clearing where fence has collapsed into it
- Pond dipping

John Bishop will lead a foraging survey later in the year and Dave Barnes will do a bird walk at either the Hillfort or at Putnoe

8. Financial Matters

Financial Report as at 8 April 2014

Category	£ff.pp
Money held in bank	432.08
Petty cash	10.60
Total	442.68

Transactions since last report:

Outgoings:

Marker paint	£9.99
Total	£9.99

Andy mentioned that we can help raise funds for the group projects as follows, when shopping online place your order through <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/putnoemowsburyfriends> it costs nothing and when you search the web, use easysearch, <http://putnoemowsburyfriends.easysearch.org.uk/> and half a penny will be donated to Friends of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort for every search you make. Again it costs nothing.

9. Any other Business

- Thanks were given to Danny for his help in the brush cutting course that Martin Fannon and Andy Wilkins attended. They are both now qualified to use the equipment.
- There was discussion about the possibility of obtaining some funding for information boards at the Hillfort. If they are placed outside of the ancient monument site there is no need to involve English Heritage although they should be consulted. Applying for ward funding was suggested, the Hillfort is in Ravensden parish in the Great Barford Ward. It was suggested we submit a request directly to Ed Burnett.
- We might need another hot water flask.
- There is a possibility of carrying out a Bumblebee survey.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 10th June 2014 in the Function Room at Mowsbury Golf Club