

FRIENDS OF WORTS MEADOW
Annual General Meeting
Thursday 14 May 2015 at Landbeach Village Hall

Present:

John Buckley, Frances Dipper, Fu Davies, Will Davies, Ray Gambell, Dannie Gambell, Melanie Hale, Ruth McArthur, David Pell, Andrew Stevens, Judy Stevens, Robert Stripe, Richard Taylor, Guy Warren and others.

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies.

FD opened the meeting by welcoming those present to our fourth Annual General Meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Graeme Bilton, Anna Bilton, Phil Clark, Robert Humphrey, Lorna Thomsen.

2. Agreeing the minutes of the 2014 AGM.

The minutes were agreed with no amendments.

3. Matters arising from those minutes.

There were no matters arising.

4. Report on activities of FOWM by the Chairman

AGM 2015 Report on activities by the Chairman

Local Community Activities

During the year we once again organised five public events:

- Bat Walk 21st August 2014 led by Iain Webb; Bourne Wood and churchyard; attended by ca. 10 people
- Pond dipping August 30th; 10 children & 14 adults; good variety of invertebrates and a few newts
- Moth trapping, identification session & breakfast August 30th/31st 2014; led by Peter Holt; attended by 11 adults.
- Fungus Foray November 9th 2014; led by Lucy Evans British Mycological Society; attended by 18 people
- January 22nd 2015 Swift conservation talk by Dick Newell; attended by ca. 35 people
- Newt walk, March 31st 2015 attended by 5 adults & 2 children. GCN seen only in the wood pond. Repeated as informal (not FOWM) survey by FD and others on 16th April with a good count of newts from all ponds

Further activities planned for this year are:

- July 6th 2015 at 9pm bat walk led by Iain Webb visiting Bourne Wood, Parish Church and the Black Bull garden (with late refreshments)
- August 15th 2015 Pond Dipping

- August 16th 2015 Moth identification led by Peter Holt (with moth trapping evening of August 15th)
- Date TBA Fungus Foray led by Lucy Evans

Management activities

Ongoing management during the year has involved:

- A new pond was dug by County Farms during the winter, next to the ‘Half Moon’ pond at the edge of the wood. It should become attractive to GCNs just as its neighbour has.
- First meadow was topped by the tenant farmer in the summer 2014
- Nest boxes were cleaned out 20th September by a work party. In early spring all except the open-fronted nest boxes were found to have been badly damaged by woodpeckers and/or squirrels and were replaced in mid-March with new thicker-wood ones made by Guy Warren. Some of the damaged boxes were converted to open-fronted ones.
- Two bird feeding stations were set up with several feeders at each, in September and were kept topped up with bird food throughout the winter and early spring. With thanks to Guy Warren, Elaine Humphrey (bird feeders and poles) and to Ruth McArthur and Richard Taylor for bird food.
- Dog waste continues to be a problem; a new notice is in hand; waste bags provided have been stolen on two occasions
- New wood chippings were obtained and spread on paths on 21st February and 20th April 2015 by work parties
- Other work party activities: repaired Bourne Wood seat; cut nettles/brambles around gates, seats and elm saplings (3 more planted autumn 2014, all doing well); continued spot treatment of ragwort and hand spraying of thistles

Monitoring and recording wildlife

A waterproof file with waterproof paper has now (today) been attached to the County farms notice board at the entrance to the wood, for anyone to record their wildlife sightings.

We continue to keep a record of all wildlife sightings either from organized events or ad hoc sightings. These will (eventually) be made more easily available on the web and in hard format.

Acknowledgements

Finally I would like to thank everyone who has given their time during the year to help with management activities, meetings and events. Everyone is welcome at all meetings, indoors or outdoors.

Acceptance of the Chairman’s report was proposed by Robert Stripe, seconded by Guy Warren and carried by the meeting.

5. Treasurer’s Report.

DP handed out our financial statement which showed, since formation:

Income received	£2850.00
Expenditure	£1,106.27
Cash at bank	£1,743.73

Acceptance of the report and accounts was proposed by Ruth McArthur and seconded by Ray Gambell.

6. Election of the Management Committee for the coming year.

There were no proposals for new members of the committee. All officers and ordinary members were willing to stand again. The chairman therefore proposed that the committee be re-elected as a block and this was unanimously agreed through a show of hands.

The Management Committee for 2015-2016 is therefore:

Chairman- Frances Dipper

Treasurer- David Pell

Secretary- Robert Humphrey

Ordinary members- Phil Clark, Robert Stripe, Guy Warren, Richard Taylor

7. Amendments to the Constitution.

There were no amendments to the Constitution.

8. Any other business.

Ruth McArthur said that Anna McArthur was concerned that the non-native Spanish bluebells in Bourne Wood be removed. Guy Warren reported that he had already removed quite a few. One of the problems is that even the native bluebells that the committee had planted are variable in appearance and appear to be morphologically somewhat different from truly wild native bluebells. The committee will continue to assess the problem and remove those considered to be definitely non-native (e.g. pink).

9. Dates of next Friends Group meeting and next AGM.

Our next quarterly meeting is on Thursday 09 July. The next AGM will be in May 2016, the date to be determined.

The meeting ended at 19.55 hrs.