

Friends of Worts Meadow
Minutes of Meeting
Monday 25 July 2011 Landbeach Village Hall

1) Welcome, Introductions, apologies & agreeing chair and minute taker for the meeting.

Present:

Phil Clark (CCC) PC, Frances Dipper FD, Dannie Gambell DG, Ray Gambell RG, Robert Humphrey RH, Robert Stripe RS, Guy Warren GW.

Apologies: Melanie Hale, John Macmillan and Alan Wyatt

PC agreed to chair the meeting and RH agreed to take the minutes and to act as Secretary until the AGM next May.

2) Review of last meeting's minutes

Minor amendments were made in the spelling of the surname of Ray Gambell. Also at item 6 it should read '(see also item 8)'.

Item 6

Notice board for wildlife sightings to be carried forward to next meeting.

Item 9

Contact number for farmer still required to be put on entrance gate. **ACTION JM** (Sorry this was incorrectly shown as for PC in last minutes).

3) Group constitution

Suggestions were made to amend the wording so that 'Group' should read 'Friends of Worts Meadow' throughout. This was agreed. **ACTION PC**

Item 4 g 'Interested members to notify the Secretary' to be added. **ACTION PC**

Item 8 c Third word to be amended to 'issued'. **ACTION PC**

Item 13 words 'to another group' to be replaced by 'Landbeach Parish Council'
ACTION PC

PC to email amended Group Constitution to FD in advance of next meeting. FD agreed to proof read the document so that it can be presented to the meeting in its final format for agreement. **ACTION PC and FD**

4) Memorandum of Understanding

This was accepted.

Item 4 Insurance.

PC explained that we would need to obtain insurance for our activities. He said that Cambridgeshire County Council would be prepared to pay the first years premium if we were in a position to apply for insurance cover once the constitution was approved at the October meeting. At this point we would have no funds of our own.

RG to raise question of our insurance premiums at next Parish Council meeting to see if they would be prepared to pay future premiums. **ACTION RG**

PC was asked to send out again a copy of the Management Plan for the site.
ACTION PC

5) Group training/resources requirements

Dates for training were in process of being finalised. Volunteers would be notified.
ACTION PC

6) Events and activities

Bat walk.

Ian Webb is not available to lead a walk. An alternative is being worked on.
ACTION PC

Moth trapping

PC has been unable to contact an expert. PC still working on this. **ACTION PC**

See also AOB

7) Additional dog bins

PC handed over to RG a poo bag dispenser and he will obtain another so that they can be put up at the two main access points for dog walkers. **ACTION PC**

RG will ask the Parish Clerk to contact the District Council to see if they can supply an additional dog waste bin for installation at the second gate in Cockfen Lane and whether there is a charge for this. **ACTION RG**

RG will raise at the next Parish Council meeting the matter of supplying poo bags for the two dispensers. There is the possibility that these may be available free of charge from the District Council, as is the case with neighbouring authorities. **ACTION RG**

8) Recording wildlife

FD said nothing had been done yet but she has a contact that might be prepared to carry out a survey.

FD said she would find out the best way in which we could archive records.
ACTION FD

PC said he would contact the Cambridgeshire Natural History Society and the Environmental Records Centre to see if they held any records for the site. **ACTION PC**

GW suggested we should maintain records under three disciplines: Entomology, Botany and Ornithology. FD suggested we add Aquatic to this list.

9) Any other business

a) RG said that on Saturday 3 September there would be an event in the Village Hall where groups who use the hall could publicise themselves with a view to attracting more members. He thought that we could have a table at this event. This was agreed and PC said he would arrange for an exhibition board and material to be supplied to us before this date. **ACTION PC**

PC suggested we might be able to combine on this date the bat walk and/or moth trapping and he will bear this in mind when trying to arrange these (see item 6)

b) GW said he would like to sow wildflower seeds this autumn. This was agreed so long as he recorded what was sown and where.

c) It was suggested that after our next meeting we request a site visit from County Farms and the farmer who uses the site for cattle grazing so that the Management Plan and our part in this can be discussed.

d) Concern was expressed about the amount of Ragwort in Worts Meadow and that the Secretary should express this concern to John Macmillan at County Farms. **ACTION RH**

e) GW expressed concern about visibility on the corner of Cockfen Lane and Akeman Street. It was thought that the Parish Council should take this forward with either County Farms or the appropriate Highways Authority depending on which side of the site boundary the problem lay.

f) It was suggested that in the interest of wildlife the pond in the wood should be fenced to prevent access by dogs and that the moat should be fenced to prevent access by cattle.

CONSIDERATION BY JM

g) RG said the notice on the main access point for dogs to be kept on a lead had become dilapidated and needed to be replaced. **ACTION JM**

h) Regarding the number of fish in the moat PC said that Ian Webb had a contact that could electrically stun fish so that they could be re-located. It was agreed that Ian Webb and his contact should be invited to our next meeting. **ACTION RH**

10) Next meeting Monday 17 October, Landbeach Village Hall at 7.30PM