

**Friends of Worts Meadow
Minutes of Committee Meeting Wednesday 6 July 2016.**

1. Welcome, introductions, apologies and notification of Fire Procedures and emergency exits.

Present: Frances Dipper (Chairman), Robert Humphrey (Secretary), Robert Stripe, Guy Warren

Apologies for absence: Andrew & Judy Stevens, David Pell, Ray & Dannie Gambell, Graeme & Anna Bilton, Richard Taylor, Ruth McArthur.

FD welcomed those attending the meeting, but as less than 5 members were present as required by the constitution, she said this would be an informal meeting with no binding decisions.

2. Agreeing the minutes of the previous meeting (7 April as circulated).

The minutes were agreed and signed subject to the following amendments:

Those present, amend name to Robert Stripe.

Item 10 second bullet point, amend Amey Cespa to Amey.

3. Matters arising that are not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

a. Dog waste signs. FD said these had been put up since our last meeting.

b. New dog waste bin. No news.

c. Village Hall booked for revised meeting dates. RH confirmed this had been done.

4. Management issues.

a. Copy of 'General description of management required' to be supplied to the group. RH said he would send a reminder to Phil about this and also ask for a copy of the updated management plan. **Action RH**

b. New ballcock for water trough. This has still not been fixed, GW will deal with this himself.

Action GW

c. Broken gate. The post had still not been replaced. RH said that the Parish Council had received a complaint about this and are understood to have raised it with County Farms.

GW said that whilst cattle cannot go through the gate from the first to the second meadow on their own they could push it open in the reverse direction and walk through.

d. Fix date for work party. GW will do some work at a time that suits him. RH will fix a date with DP and FD after she returns on 18th July. **Action RH**

5. Correspondence.

RH said the following had been received:

- An email from the Secretary of the Fen Edge Community Association inviting us to become a member for which the annual subscription is £15. Being a member would entitle us to apply for grants from them for projects. The request was received favourably from those present, however, a binding decision could not be made. Nevertheless FD said she would pay for the subscription for us to join and at our next meeting if membership was endorsed we could reimburse her.

Action FD

- An email from Sarah Poppy of Historic England. She had been unable to make our previous meetings or the Management Walk but wished to flag up the requirement for scheduled monument consent for any works affecting the scheduled monument, in particular removing silt from the moat and drainage improvements. RH had replied that we were aware of the requirement and do consult with Quinton Carroll.

Based on the Management Walk where it was concluded that silt did not now need to be removed because of the higher water level as a result of the new overflow pipe, RH said he would let Sarah know this. **Action RH**

- An email from Georgina James at Amey saying their company do Community Involvement Days whereby their employees can help local communities with any projects e.g. tree planting and do we have anything they could help with.
Given that Phil was already in contact with them (April minutes Item 10 second bullet point), it was agreed RH would reply that we would keep them in mind with any future projects.

Action RH

6. Treasurer's report.

RH handed out a statement prepared by our Treasurer showing that we have £1509.23 in the bank. FD said that the £78 paid for the dog waste notices will be reimbursed to us by Phil. RH said that we had not been invoiced yet for the Village Hall usage in 2016 so this will reduce the balance in due course. RS asked about having an annual subscription as a means of increasing income and it was agreed this would be put on the agenda for our next meeting.

Action PC & RH

7. Group training/Equipment.

FD reported that she had been on a first aid course and was now certificated for 3 years.

8. Events & Activities.

a. Report on events since our last meeting:

- Management walk. This had taken place in May, an updated management plan was awaited from Phil.
Action PC
- Dawn chorus walk. This was held on 22nd May and was a great success with 12 people attending. FD to write a report. Many thanks to Phil for leading the walk and to Frances and John for their hospitality with the cooked breakfast afterwards.
Action FD
- Moth trapping. This was held on 3rd July again with Peter Holt having put his traps out overnight. Only 33 species were caught although Peter will identify some micro moths later from photo graphs he took. Only 4 group members attended and it was decided that next year it was not cost effective to hire the Village Hall for such a low turnout.
Thanks once again to Peter and to Frances and John for supplying and cooking our breakfast afterwards.

b. Future events:

- Pond dipping 3 September commencing 2.30 pm.
- Survey of butterflies and dragonflies. Consider for next year.
- No news on bat walk, fungus foray or botanical survey.

9. Insurance cover.

FD said she had heard from Melanie Hale who had contacted the Parish Council's insurers. They have stated that as long as we are a sub group of the Parish Council and we have permission to be on the land for our activities, then we are covered by their insurance policy. FD to forward a copy of this communication to RH to file.

Action FD

10. Fly tipping.

RH said that the hazardous waste (asbestos) that had been dumped outside the reserve by the Bourne Wood gate had been reported to the Parish Clerk to refer on to SCDC. For information RH read out the section in our Memorandum of Understanding with County Farms for action if the fly tipping had been on the reserve.

11. Any other business.

- RS suggested that Alan Whyte and James Hockney should be deleted from our mailing list as they were no longer in the area. **Action RH**
- FD said we must find ways to increase publicity of our group and attract younger members.
- FD said we need to ask Richard Holland to move the cattle to the second meadow on pond dipping day if they are not already in there.
- GW said he would move the poo bag dispenser inside the kissing gate as he thought dog walkers were taking the bags whilst walking their dogs outside Worts Meadow.

12. Date of next meeting.

Currently this is scheduled to be on Wednesday 5th October, however, FD suggested that RH asks regular attendees if a Friday evening would be more acceptable given that some had other commitments on a Wednesday.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm.