

**Friends of Worts Meadow
Minutes of Committee Meeting Wednesday 5th October 2016**

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

Present: Frances Dipper (Chairman), David Pell (Treasurer), Robert Humphrey (Secretary), Robert Stripe, Ray Gambell, Dannie Gambell, Phil Clark, Anna Hicks, Guy Warren.

Apologies for absence: Anna Bilton, Graeme Bilton, Richard Taylor, Ruth McArthur,

2. Agreeing the minutes of the previous meeting (6th July) as circulated.

Subject to minor spelling amendments these were agreed and signed.

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

a. New dog waste bin. AH said she had made enquiries of SCDC and as a village we are not entitled to more than the three bins we already have. We could have one of the existing bins moved but we decided they are correctly sited.

b. Joining Fen Edge Community Association. FD said she had not yet done this. The meeting agreed the subscription could be paid from our funds (*at the previous meeting there were insufficient members present to authorise this*). FD will proceed with this and also send them an article on our aims for inclusion in a future issue.

At the suggestion of DP it was also agreed we would join the Waterbeach Community Association.

Action FD

c. Advising Historic England on the decision not to remove silt from the moat. RH said he had sent an email to Sarah Poppy on 7th July.

d. Updating mailing list. RH said that he had deleted those mentioned at our previous meeting from the list. FD said she would contact RH about our mailing list.

Action FD

e. Any ideas on increasing publicity and attracting new members. The following were suggested:

- Publicity via Fen Edge News and Beach News.
- Have a stand at Waterbeach Feast (10th June 2017) and/or the Fen Edge Festival (23rd-25th June 2017).
- PC said he will be holding events in local libraries to publicise groups such as ours. Flyers to be handed out.
- See also 8b second bullet point.

f. Moving dog waste bag dispenser. GW said he had not done this yet. Carry Forward. **Action GW**

4. Management issues.

a. Discuss annual work programme. PC had prepared this and the following objectives that are allocated to our group were discussed.

- 2c. Cut and rake off selected areas of grassland in the area east of the woodland. Discuss at next meeting.
- 3a. Cut and rake orchid area. This will be done by GW this autumn. He has collected some orchid seeds to be spread **Action GW**
- 3b. Inspect and clean nest boxes. Date fixed see item 8b.
- 4a. Carry out a survey of Great Crested Newts in the moat and new woodland pond to establish population numbers. FD said she intends to organise proper surveys next spring. **Action FD**

- 4b. Maintain the two new ponds. Action required to be determined.
- 4c. Clean meadow side ditch from pond to roadside ditch. Action required to be determined.
- 4d. Clear sections of bramble and bankside vegetation from ponds to improve access. PC to invite Amey to undertake this autumn. **Action PC**
- 4e. Construct two bug hotels in woodland and woodland edge habitats. PC to invite Amey to undertake this autumn. **Action PC**
- 5a. Install benches on site. The two benches are adequate and will be maintained by the group.
- 5b. Ensure any fly tipping is reported and removed promptly. There has been no fly tipping on the reserve so far but this needs to be monitored and action taken if necessary. **Action All**
- 5c. Maintain paths with more wood chips as and when available.
- 6a. Organise a programme of walks/events. Already in hand.
PC asked AH whether a forest schools teacher could run a session for local schools on the reserve. **Action AH**

- 7c. Undertake yearly site safety inspection and monitoring of site management operations to ensure objectives are being met and to inform future management plan reviews.
This is done every spring.
- 7e. Carry out litter picks. Litter considered not a problem on the reserve but monitor and pick up any seen. **Action All**

b. New ballcock for water trough. Per GW, Richard Holland has attended to this.

c. Broken gate. AH reported that this had been mended.

GW mentioned to AH that the gate on the other side of the moat will need replacing in the next 12 months.

d. Fix date for work party. Fixed for Friday 21st October (*since postponed until Saturday 22nd October*). Meet in the Village Hall car park at 10am.

5. Correspondence.

Nothing.

6. Treasurer's report.

- a. DP reported that we still have a balance of £1587.23.
- b. It was decided not to levy an annual subscription on members at the present time as we have sufficient funds. This will however be kept in mind for the future.

7. Group training/Equipment.

- a. Any requirements. PC said that when he has funds and more people requiring training there would be another brushcutter course.

8. Events and activities.

- a. Report on events since the last meeting.
Pond dipping Saturday 3rd September 2016.
Led by Frances Dipper.

As usual participants gathered at the main pond for an introduction, safety brief and demonstration before starting the pond dipping in the main pond. This year the pond level was very low and the mud around the edges was particularly deep and thick making it difficult to reach the deeper water (especially for the children). The weather was intermittent rain. Several stalwarts from the FOWM attended along with 3 families who had not been before (who live in Landbeach). There were 5 children and 10 adults, much the same as last year. The exact number is uncertain as sadly the rain towards the end washed the names off my whiteboard. The children were undaunted by mud and rain and found plenty of material to keep them interested. We had erected a gazebo which provided some shelter for us and the identification books.

Invertebrate life included damselfly nymphs (common), a dragonfly nymph, mayfly nymphs, pond snails, orb cockles, leeches, mites, water boatmen (abundant) and a few water beetles. Young newts were also common, and all seemed to be common newts though not all were examined closely.

b. Future events.

- We agreed to meet to inspect and clean out the nest boxes in Bourne Wood at 10am on Saturday 5th November. *(Since postponed, new date to be determined).*
- PC thought we should consider holding a bio blitz day where everything was concentrated into one day rather than holding a number of smaller events throughout the year. This would involve getting experts in on various disciplines to record what was found on the day. PC thought we might attract people who are happy to record species found but do not want to get involved with manual work.

PC to prepare a briefing paper with a suggested date.

Action PC

RG said we would need to get publicity into local schools.

The Village Hall to be hired to provide refreshments and shelter.

FD thought we could include a Treasure Hunt for children.

9. Any other business.

- RS said there were some leaflets from Urban & Civic in the lobby for anyone who wanted one.
- Many thanks to Dannie for providing the cake. DP offered to make one for the next meeting.

10. Dates for 2017 meetings. Wednesdays 25th January, 26th April, 26th July, 25th October. Discuss a date for May AGM at the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.55pm.