

Friends of Worts Meadow
Minutes of Committee Meeting Wednesday 25 January 2017

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

FD made the usual introductions and thanked DP for supplying the refreshments.

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

Apologies for absence: Robert Stripe, Ruth McArthur, Richard Taylor.

2. Agreeing the minutes of the previous meeting (5 October 2016 as circulated).

These were agreed and signed.

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

a. Joining Fen Edge Community Association and Waterbeach Community Association.

FD reported that we had joined FECA and they had printed an article about us in their latest news publication.

FD is to obtain joining details for the Waterbeach Community Association and will follow this up.

Action FD

4. Management issues.

a. Annual work programme as per items allocated to the group by the 2016-2017 spreadsheet.

Objective 2b. GW said he would continue with this control.

Action GW

Objective 2c. GW said that the vegetation in the half-moon area was too thick for a strimmer and that a tractor and flail were needed to cut it. RG is to ask Peter Hatley of Manor Farm if he has the necessary equipment and if so whether he will give us a quote for the job? Also PC will ask Anna Hicks about County Farms hiring a contractor.

Action RG & PC

Objective 3a. Done October 2016.

Objective 3b. Open fronted boxes done, other boxes still to be checked and cleaned (see item 9a).

Objective 4a. Survey to be organised in March/April (see item 9b).

Objective 4b. Monitor.

Action All

Objective 4c. Obtain quote in conjunction with Objective 2c.

Action RG & PC

Objective 4d. Group to trim back with secateurs to ensure access.

Action All

Objective 4e PC is awaiting to hear from Amey about a work party for this.

Objective 5a. No action required.

Objective 5b. Monitor and report as necessary.

Objective 5c. Top up wood chips on pathways as necessary. There is a heap available, cost donated by RH.

Objective 6. 2017 events at planning stage (see item 9b).

Objective 7e. Continue to monitor and deal with as necessary.

Action All

b. Any other items. None.

5. Attracting new members.

a. Publicity via fen Edge News.

An article was published in their latest issue, thanks to FD for this.

b. Consider having a stand at Waterbeach Feast on June 10 and Fen Edge Festival on June 23-25. This was discussed and it was agreed we should have a stand at Waterbeach Feast only and see how it goes this year.

- FD/AB/GB are available on the day to man the stand (+ possibly DP).
- FD to book and see if we can have a reduced rate as we are not fund raising but are raising awareness. **Action FD**
- PC can supply a banner. He will see if Urban and Civic will pay for it. **Action PC**
- RH to ask Village Hall committee if we can borrow their display boards for the day. **Action RH**

Although we will not have a stand at the Fen Edge Festival, RG said that a shuttle minibus would operate on 24-25 June between the festival and Landbeach Tithe Barn and perhaps we could have some display at the barn. This was agreed and FD will ask Gemma O'Shea if this is possible. **Action FD**

c. Any other ideas.

PC said that he was organising displays in libraries close to nature reserves under his umbrella. He expected the display would be at Waterbeach Library this spring. There would be flyers available and he was contacting Urban and Civic to see if they would contribute to the cost of these.

RG suggested that flyers could also be put at the Park & Ride site and the new bus shelter would also have a place for flyers. DP said that posters promoting our events could be put up at Tesco Milton and four community noticeboards in Waterbeach.

6. Correspondence. None.

7. Treasurer's report.

DP handed out a statement of our current financial position showing a balance at the bank of £1480.33.

8. Group Training/Equipment.

PC said he may have money available in the new financial year to run a brushcutter training course.

9. Events & Activities.

a. Report on events since the last meeting.

- Work party 22 October. GW and DP had cleared large areas around the seats for orchids as well as pathways and RH had raked these away.
- RH had checked and cleaned out the open fronted boxes, there were two nests this year in the five boxes. The remaining tit boxes had not been checked, many were in a damaged state. The meeting agreed that as these had been repaired twice they should be taken down and replaced by Schwegler manufactured boxes made from Woodcrete (mix of sawdust, concrete and clay that is rot proof and predator proof). These cost around £25 and it was agreed RH would purchase 8 of these a.s.a.p. as cheap as he can find. **Action RH**

b. Future events.

Holding a Bio Blitz day was discussed and PC handed out a sheet explaining what happens at such an event and what activities might take place. He said, however, that he was in the process of organising such days already at two sites and it might be difficult to get experts to attend a third site within a short space of time. He suggested our day was held next year, in the meantime perhaps we might like to visit the Somersham event (May 20/21, to be confirmed) or Ring's End (June 17/18, to be confirmed). The meeting agreed this proposal and we would therefore hold the following events.

- Amphibian surveys 15 March, 22March, 5 April. FD is not able to lead this year. PC to enquire whether Iain Webb or Frog Life can lead and if so whether these dates are acceptable to them. All to be public events. **Action PC**
Phil, confirmation of March dates and start times are needed by RH by 20 February if they are to get into the Village Newsletter.
- Bird walk 13 May, mid-morning start and led by PC.
- Pond dipping 26 August from 2pm and led by FD.
- Moth trapping. Discuss at next meeting.

10. Any other business.

- RH to send an email to everyone asking for nominations for the 2017-2018 Management Committee in advance of the AGM. FD said she would prefer to stand down as Chairman. **Action RH**
- Please put any photo's you have of the reserve onto our Facebook page. **Action All**
- GW said that the moat overflow pipe is not effective as water is flowing out of the moat at a lower point on the opposite side.

11. Date of next meeting.

This will be on Wednesday 26th April, RH to supply the refreshments.