Friends of Worts Meadow Meeting Minutes
Monday 26th July, 7.30pm, Village Hall

1) Welcome & Introductions
CL welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the 'Friends of Worts Meadow' and thanked everyone for coming. We went round the room introducing ourselves and saying any particular interests in Worts Meadow and in being in the group.

Present:
-Alan Wyatt (AW): local resident, father farmed Worts Meadow, member of Parish Council and Landbeach Society.
-Charlotte Lowry (CL): Greenspace & Community Officer at Cambridgeshire County Council
-Danny Gamble (DG): Local resident and general interest in site.
-John MacMillan (JMM): Rural Estates Manager at Cambridgeshire County Council, Worts Meadow is part of this estate, also walks there at weekends.
-Jon Megginson (JM): Not a local resident but been involved with planting Bourne Wood, pulling ragwort on the Meadow and walks the dog.
-Neville Diver (ND): Local resident and general interest in the site.
-Ray Gamble (RG): Part of Landbeach Society, Parish Council, writes the village magazine and an environmentalist.
-Robert Humphrey (RH): Dog walker and bird watcher
-Robert Stripe (RS): President of Landbeach Society
-Steve Anderson (SA): Dog walker.

Apologies:
-David Kenny (DK): English Heritage
-David Pell (DP): Unable to do Mondays but keen to be involved in the group and associated activities.
-Maria Sylvester (MS): Parish Council Clerk
-Melanie Hale: Chairman of Parish Council.

2) News & Updates
CL gave some background to how the group has come to exist.
-So far Worts Meadow has been managed by the County Council's Rural Estate Team. The site has been under a Countryside Stewardship Scheme and is grazed by a tenant farmer. Management work has occurred in accordance with the Stewardship Agreement such as grazing the meadow, maintaining hedges and keeping paths clear. JMM gave a small account of how the site is managed in the context of the whole estate.
-Over the past year the site has seen various improvements due to some funding obtained through the County Council's archaeology department. These improvements include new gates, surfacing underneath gates, replacement bridge and new cattle pen. There is no more funding as part of this project.
-The Environment Team at the County Council have been identifying sites that could benefit from being designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and feel Worts Meadow is one of such sites. An LNR is a place that is of special local interest and that is managed for both wildlife and for people and

has some educational potential for the local community. The Environment Team have done a presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting in April and ran an Open Evening in July to start to consult with the local community on the site becoming a LNR. There will be formal letters of consultation going out to key groups and stakeholders over the next few weeks.
-The Friends Group has been set-up to start to get the local community involved in managing the site and having a say in what goes on at Worts Meadow. Many LNRs have Friends Group's who manage the site, organise events and other activities that they see fit. This approach contributes to sustainable management and long-term protection for the site.

3) Aims of the Group
We need to come up with a set of aims for the Friends of Worts Meadow. CL outlined key elements from a County Council perspective that we need to integrate into our aims. This included:
-Continue with the Stewardship Agreement and having a tenant farmer.
-Protecting and enhancing the archaeology of the site.
-Protecting and enhancing the different habitats of the site for wildlife.
-Involving local people in managing the site.
-Providing educational, fun and healthy events on the site for local residents.
We then did a bit of brainstorming session to find out what everyone in the group's aims were for the group. These have been typed up and our attached in a separate document.

Action: CL to summarise before next meeting and come up with a set of aims for the group to discuss.

4) Name of the Group
There was discussion over what we should call this group. Suggestions included:
-Friends of Worts Meadow
-Worts Peasants (Additional information from AW: Regarding the definition of a Peasant: Very briefly. One who worked his own fields but also had to give an allotted number of days to working, unpaid, for the Lord of the Manor, also know as Serfdom. In the case of Worts Meadow this would have been the Manor of Bray. This I thought described exactly what we were proposing to do, perhaps a bit too subtle!!)
-Friends of Brays
-Worts Meadow Friends
-Worts Meadow Group
So far this most popular name is 'Friends of Worts Meadow'.

Action: ALL to think over this, come up with any new ideas and we will vote at next meeting.

5) Roles within the group
We briefly talked about the different roles that members of the group could take on if they wished. A suggested committee would include 5 members, including a chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. Suggested roles include:

-Chairman (Chairing the meetings and possibly being a leader for the group)
-Secretary (taking minutes and typing them up)
-Treasurer (setting up a bank account and looking after any funds)
-Warden(s) (Looking after the site e.g. litter picking, reporting problems, odd jobs, being a friendly safe presence at the site etc.)
-Event Support (coming up with ideas, helping out at events, helping to organise events, putting up posters)
-Publicity (posters, newsletter articles)
-Health & Safety Rep. (making sure we have correct equipment for practical work, writing risk assessments for events and work party's)
-Parish Council Rep. (passing on information, keeping everyone informed and up to date)
-Landbeach Society Rep. (passing on information, keeping everyone informed and up to date)
-Heritage Rep. (giving advice)
-Farms Rep. (giving advice)
-Biodiversity Rep. (giving advice)
-Dog-walker Rep. (passing on information, keeping everyone informed and up to date)

There was discussion over the role of Treasurer. A Treasurer would be needed in case the group wanted to apply for funding or small grants. The group may want to charge membership at some stage, although this is not necessary. The County Council has a budget for it's LNRs, it maybe that some of this budget is transferred to the Friends Group to manage and allocate for the site, a bank account would be needed.

Action: ALL To think whether you would like a role, or to be part of a committee (not necessarily with a role), whether there are any positions we have missed from the list above.

6) Constitution
CL brought an example of a simple constitution the group could adopt. There wasn't time for discussion. This has been attached as a separate document.

Action: ALL To read the constitution and come with any suggestions or improvements in time for the next meeting.

7) Future Meetings
It was suggested we have 4 meetings per year to work alongside the seasons- the last Monday of the Quarter. The Village Hall was agreed as a good venue. It maybe that we also have some outside meetings if appropriate, at Worts Meadow. It was pointed out that the village hall needs to be booked fairly far in advance. CL has already booked and advertised for a meeting at the end of September.

8) Elm Tree Idea
AW suggested it would be a good idea to plant some new Elm trees (3-5) at Landbeach as these are traditional trees for the village and several have died

of the Dutch Elm Disease. CL suggested that Butterfly Conservation have some free Elm trees (part of a White Spotted Pinion Moth project) that we could have and they are apparently disease resistant. The group were keen for this to be a community tree planting event that could also symbolise the start of the Friends group and maybe attract some more interest.

Action CL: Consult with stakeholders of the site to see if everyone is in agreement (County Farms, Tenant Farmer, Archaeology Department, English Heritage, Natural England, Greenspaces team, Parish Council, Landbeach Society etc.). Put in a 'Scheduled Monument Consent' request as we will be disturbing the ground of the scheduled monument and so will need consent for this. Find out more about the source of the Elm trees. Look into costings e.g. fencing to protect from cattle.

9) Any Other Business

-An additional item came up after the meeting. Sharon Hearle from Butterfly Conservation has done some moth trapping at Worts Meadow and has found the White Spotted Pinion Moth on the site. She's very please with this and may be doing future surveys, which it would be good to get the community involved with too.

Next Meeting Date:

Monday , 27th September, 7.30pm, Village Hall.