Friends of Worts Meadow
Minutes of Committee Meeting
Thursday 9 July 2015

1. Welcome, introductions & apologies.
Present: Frances Dipper (Chairman), David Pell (Treasurer), Robert Humphrey (Secretary), Ray Gambell, Dannie Gambell, Larry Bly, Anna Bilton, Graeme Bilton, Guy Warren, Robert Stripe, Phil Clark (Cambridgeshire County Council Greenspaces Officer), Lorna Thomsen (County Farms).
Apologies: Dick Newell.

Frances opened the meeting by welcoming Larry Bly to his first meeting.

2. Agreeing minutes of the previous meeting (9 April 2015) as circulated.
The minutes were agreed.

3. Matters arising where not covered elsewhere in the agenda.
a. Dog waste posters.
FD handed round the draft wording for our posters. The meeting agreed with the suggested wording and FD will email this to PC to have a few prepared on polycarbonate. **Action FD & PC**

b. Noticeboard. FD said that the record book had now been in place for 2 months and was working well with good usage. FD is collating the records on a spreadsheet.

4. Management issues.
a. Removing silt from moat.
PC said that he had met with LT on site and had spoken to Quinton Carroll (Cambridgeshire County Council archaeologist) about this. He will be preparing a specification for a grant application but the process is likely to mean the work will be not be done until next year.
GW raised the question of a fence to prevent cattle getting to the edge of the moat and also the profiling of the edge to prevent water overflowing during the winter. Both of these will be considered later.

b. Bourne Wood seat needing repair.
RH said that thanks to Steve Anderson, John Attwood and himself the broken seat had been repaired, sanded down and a teak oil applied. The undamaged seat had also been sanded down and had teak oil applied.

c. Topping vegetation in meadows.
LT said she would chase up Richard Holland about him doing this after the cattle are removed in the autumn. **Action LT**
GW said that there were lots of butterflies in the second meadow, which had not been grazed yet, so having tall grass provided them with a good habitat.

d. Spot treating ragwort.
GW said that both Ragwort and Thistles were much reduced again this year and FD thanked him for his tremendous work.
GW asked LT about reimbursement from County Farms for the cost of the chemicals he has used, 3 litres several times per week. LT will discuss this with John Macmillan. **Action LT**

e. Strimming pathways and any other maintenance.
RH said that since issuing the agenda someone had cut back vegetation along the pathways but perhaps the area around the elm tree saplings planted last autumn could be cut back. GW said he would do this.
Action GW
PC said he would ask Butterfly Conservation if they had any more elm saplings they could donate to us.
Action PC

5. Correspondence.
None.

6. Treasurer's Report.
DP handed out a statement showing that since the AGM the only item of expenditure was £19 for the hire of the Village Hall and that our current balance at the bank was £1724.73.

7. Group training/Equipment.
a. Any requirements.
PC said there were no definite training courses he was however collating names for Brushcutter and First Aid courses. FD and DP put their names down for First Aid.
FD thought it would be a good idea to learn how to scythe. LT said she may have a contact at Wimpole Hall and would make enquiries. **Action LT**

8. Events and Activities.
a. Report on events since the last meeting.

- Wood chippings spread on pathways. RH said that since our last meeting, and thanks to quick thinking on the part of RG, we had obtained a free load of wood chippings from Peter Oakley & Daughter who were doing some tree surgery in the village. Since then RH had arranged for a further free load and thanks to many members these had been spread on the Eastern and Southern pathways in Bourne Wood.
  FD thought it would be a good idea if those spreading the wood chippings wear a face mask as the chippings generated spores which could affect breathing.
- Replacing nest boxes. GW reported that he had made and put up replacement nest boxes and these had been used this breeding season.
- Bat walk. A successful evening last Monday was reported by FD. Led by Iain Webb we visited the Parish Church and the Black Bull garden recording three species of bat with our detectors and had numerous other sightings.
  RG said there was now a box in the church in which to put any injured bats along with instructions and a contact phone number.

b. Future events.

- Swift watch at Church. RH to discuss with Dick Newell and will notify members if this goes ahead. **Action RH**
- Pond dipping /moth trapping on 15/16 August. FD to prepare posters, RH to publicise events in 'What's On'. **Action FD & RH**
  DP apologised that he is away that weekend and therefore unable to cook breakfasts. A Hygiene Certificate is required by anyone preparing hot food in the Village Hall. FD to see if she can obtain an on-line certificate for the day or approach Barbara Le Gallez whom RG said has a certificate.
  Action FD
- Fungus foray. No date yet, PC to contact Lucy Evans again. **Action PC**
- Nest boxes. To be cleaned out Saturday 24 October starting at 10am. FD to supply paint to number boxes again. **Action FD**

9. Any other business.

- GW said that the new pond dug last autumn is not deep enough and has dried out this summer. LT will take this up with County Farms. **Action LT**
- Although not on the reserve, GW asked LT if the vegetation on at least one side of Cockfen Lane west of the 30mph limit could be cut back as pedestrians had nowhere to get off the road when traffic approached on this single track road. LT will raise this with County Farms although there was some question whether the work is paid for by County Farms or the Highways Authority. **Action LT**
- Some of the reed mace in the Bourne Wood pond needs removing. It was agreed this will also be done on 24 October and FD will bring her waders.
- FD encouraged everyone to join the Wildlife Trust.
- RH said he had received a complaint that the gates at either end of the short bridge over the ditch between the first and second meadows could not be opened. GW said that he had done all he could to adjust the gates but the post moved as the ground dried out. LT said she would see if County Farms could do something perhaps an 'up and over' catch. **Action LT**

10. Date of next meeting.
This will be on Thursday 8 October.

The meeting ended at 8.40pm.