Friends of Worts Meadow
Minutes of Committee Meeting
Thursday 9 January 2014

1) Welcome, introductions and apologies.

Present: Frances Dipper (Chairman), Robert Humphrey (Secretary), David Pell (Treasurer), Guy Warren, Dannie Gambell, Ray Gambell, Anna Bilton, Graeme Bilton, Ruth McArthur, Robert Stripe, Richard Taylor, Phil Clark, Melanie Hale.

Apologies: Sarah Shepherd, Judy Stevens, Andrew Stevens.

2) Agreeing minutes of previous meeting (10 October 2013) as circulated.

The minutes were agreed.

3) Matters arising.

a. Dog waste, posters for lamination and display. PC has these at his office and will drop off with RH sometime. **Action PC**

b. Nets for barley straw. RT said he can obtain some netting which GW said he can get stitched into appropriate size bags. **Action RT & GW**

c Group logo. FD's daughter had designed a logo for us using suggestion provided by RG. Examples were circulated and from these it was decided to add the word Landbeach and have the newt printed brown and the writing green. Meeting agreed to pay for work and invoice to be sent to DP.

d. Ragwort Clearance. RH read out email from Sarah Shepherd dated 7 January stating that after much discussion, the agronomist at Natural England will not allow boom spraying. She is to meet him on site to discuss options and report back to us.

Previous indications were that tenant farmer would top the ragwort/thistles once cattle removed but this had not happened.

PC said he would contact Sarah re spot treatment of ragwort which had previously been authorized. We want to know what chemicals can be used and who is going to pay to purchase. GW can do the work providing he has a key to gate. Also can meadows be topped by farmer in March? **Action PC**

e. Facebook page. PC said the group now has a Facebook page and he will make FD administrator so that she can add photos. **Action PC**

f. Removal of silt from pond. PC said he had contacted Quinton Carroll, Cambs. C.C. archaeologist re this. Work can be done but they have no funds. FOWM could apply for a grant and this course of action was agreed. PC to help with funding application.

g. Toad sign for Cockfen Lane. MH will bring this up at next parish Council meeting. **Action MH**

4) Correspondence.

RH said only item was email from Sarah Shepherd saying Higher Level Stewardship works now complete apart from new pond which it was hoped would be completed this year as soon as funds allowed. Contractor had checked ditch culverts were clear.

5) Treasurer's report.

DP reported current balance at bank was £2239.45.

6) Group training/equipment.

a. Risk Assessment workshop. PC said a minimum number of 10 was needed to run a course.
b. First Aid kit. PC said he had this at his office and will drop it off with RH sometime. **Action PC**
c. List of Training Courses available. PC said these were:

- Risk Assessments.
- Funding applications
- Wildlife I.D.
- Strimming
- Chain saws

PC to contact other groups to see if enough interest to make courses viable. **Action PC**

d. Strimmer. Meeting agreed group should purchase a strimmer. PC and GW to investigate and compare prices. **Action PC & GW**
e. Moth traps. GW to buy one for work which we can then borrow for events (PC to provide GW via RH with a good website for purchase). PC also said we could borrow his trap when required. **Action PC**

f. Spotlights. FD said she had details of two versions that can be purchased for newt spotting. Meeting agreed to purchase one lower powered version to start with. **Action FD**

7) Events and Activities.

a. Report on events since last meeting.

- Fungus foray. Phil Clark was unable to secure the help of fungus expert John Holden and was unable to attend the event himself so in their absence Frances Dipper led the event which took place on 12th October 2013. In addition to her, four people attended the event. A search of the meadow and the wood revealed five (possibly six) species. In the wood two species were common *Coprinus xanthothrix* and an orange-brown species possibly *Marasmius*, both taking advantage of the wood chippings along the paths and in piles. In the meadow several large field mushrooms and possibly also horse mushrooms were growing in the field next to the wood. Fairy ring champignon and a yellow *Coprinus* species were found in small numbers. Following the event FD sent photos of all the species to Phil and asked him to forward to John Holden but has had no reply.

- Bulb planting. 1500 Bluebell bulbs and 200 Daffodil bulbs had been planted in two sessions recently. Thanks to GW for purchasing these at a discount.
- Hole filling. John Buckley had filled dangerous holes with surplus soil.
- Nest box erection. RH said that 18 nest boxes were put in on 14 December. They had each been numbered underneath so if anyone sees birds using boxes can they let RH know which box number.

b. Event for 2014.

- Date to be determined. Consolidating log piles.
- 14 March. Provisional look for newts (members only).
- 28 March. Newt spotting 7pm. (PC to contact Deborah Marchant) **Action PC**
- Dates to be determined. Newt surveys.
- 8 May. Bat walk after AGM.
- ? July. Moth trapping. PC to check what dates County Moth Recorder has available. **Action PC**
- To be determined. Informal moth trap evenings.
- 30 August. Afternoon pond dipping.
  Evening moth trapping.
- 31 August. Early morning check of moth traps.
- 25 October. Fungus foray.

8) Website. No meeting held yet.

9) Village Hall Hire Charge increase from 1 May 2014.
RH said that next Thursday the Village Hall Management Committee would be voting on how much the increase would be, either 5%, 7.5% or 10%. FOWM were entitled to a vote at this meeting but would need to send another representative along as RH would be voting in his capacity as Secretary of the Village Hall Management Committee. Decision was not to send another representative to vote.
Subsequent decision was to increase rate by 5%.

10) Any other business.
PC gave details of Community Volunteer Services and it was agreed to register FOWM with RH as contact point. **Action PC**

There are some old tyres/wheels by the Cockfen Lane entrance to Bourne Wood. MH to bring this up at Parish Council meeting with a view to SCDC removing them. **Action MH**
These have now been removed.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 10 April at 7.30pm.