Friends of Worts Meadow
Minutes of Committee Meeting
Thursday 12 February 2015

1) Welcome, introductions and apologies.

Present: Frances Dipper (Chairman), Robert Humphrey (Secretary), David Pell (Treasurer), Phil Clark, Robert Stripe, Guy Warren, Graeme Bilton, Anna Bilton, Dick Newell.

Apologies for absence: Ray and Dannie Gambell, Ruth McArthur, John McMillan, Lorna Thomsen.

FD opened the meeting and welcomed Dick Newell to his first meeting and thanked Phil Clark for chairing our last meeting in her absence.

2) Agreeing minutes of our previous meeting of 9 October 2014.
The minutes were agreed.

3) Matters arising where not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

3a. Dog waste posters and dog waste bags.
PC to circulate draft wording for a metal notice, this will be the same as notices at Rings End and Somersham reserves. *Since circulated by email.*
If wording agreed PC to see if a sign can be made for us
Regarding the dog waste bags provided by the group, RH said that he had recently put 50 bags in the dispenser but they had all been taken by the next morning, clearly someone was taking them in bulk.
The meeting discussed whether to put up a notice but decided at this stage to monitor the situation only.

3b. Notice Board.
There was no news but FD and DN suggested that, rather than having a board which is difficult to pin to, we use waterproof paper attached to a clipboard which could be suspended from the main gate information board. FD to investigate the cost of paper. **Action FD**

3c. Bird feeding stations.
GW said that he was filling these up with 1kg to 1.5kg of bird food per day and gave details of the species using them.
RH thanked GW and Elaine Humphrey for providing the bird feeders and poles on which they are mounted. He also thanked Ruth McArthur for donating some bird seed and Richard Taylor who had obtained, via his son, substantial amounts of bird food free of charge. In this connection FD will arrange to collect some bags of bird seed from Richard and deliver these to GW. *Now done.*

4) Management issues.

4a.New pond. GW reported that this had been dug by contractors since our last meeting. Initially he thought it was not deep enough but he now realises they have done a very good job.
4b. Nest boxes. Apart from the open fronted boxes all have been damaged by woodpeckers/squirrels. GW has made a prototype box from much thicker wood and he proposes to make another 9 in the next few weeks. DP will help by making the holes with a tool he has.
GW thought we should have a working party to take down the old boxes, transfer the metal plates to the new boxes and put them up on the same day. This was agreed and GW will notify members when he is ready. **Action GW**

4c.Wood chippings for pathways. RH said that due to a breakdown in communications we were not told about the pollarding of trees on the recreation ground in time to get the gate open for the resulting wood chippings to be deposited in Bourne Wood. Last Thursday however, Andrew Stevens kindly arranged for chippings from tree work he was having done to be deposited in the wood. RH and Steve Anderson had made a start on spreading these chippings on one of the pathways but we would need a work party to complete the job. We agreed on Saturday 21 February with a 9.30am start for the work party and people could come along when they were able.

4d. Removing silt from moat.
PC said he had put in a grant application for this work.

4e. Bourne Wood seat needing repair.
RH said it was intended to look at the seat on the day when the ash trees were planted but this had overlooked. RH said the crack in the seat was worse and he would look at it soon. As the seat was chained to the ground it might be necessary to unscrew the front damaged section to repair it. He also said both seats could do with rubbing down and wood preservative applied during the summer. PC said he would see if County Farms would reimburse us for any costs involved.

4f. Ash dieback.
PC said there was little that could be done other than monitor the situation and this was agreed.

5. Correspondence.
RH said that the only item was an email from Dick Newell thanking us for the opportunity to give his recent talk.

6. Treasurer's report.
DP handed out a statement showing that the only change since our last meeting was a payment of £19 for the hire of the Village Hall. The balance of funds in our account was now £1764.01.

7. Fundraising.
PC said he was mentioning this to all groups. Although our current funds were sufficient and no action was required at the moment, we should come up with ideas for fundraising e.g. a quiz night for the future.

8. Group training/equipment.
PC said that plans for a Strimmer and Brush Cutter training course were on hold as he only had one person currently listed for this. More were needed to make it viable.

9. Events and Activities.
9a. Report on events since our last meeting.

- RH said that our Fungus Foray had taken place on 9 November, a lovely sunny afternoon. It was led by Lucy Evans of the British Mycological Society and 18 people attended. It was hoped that photographs from the event would be sent to GB for inclusion on our website but this had not taken place. PC to phone Lucy to remind her and see if she can lead a similar event this autumn.
Action PC
- Elm sapling planting. PC had provided three saplings resistant to Dutch elm disease and they were planted by GW and RH on 22 November. Thanks also to Ray and Dannie Gambell who turned up but were not needed. The saplings have since had plastic collars put around them, they are along the western edge of Bourne Wood.

- Dick Newell had given an interesting and informative talk on 22 January on swift conservation which was attended by around 35 people. RS thanked RH for providing the cheese and wine for this event.

9b. Dates for 2015 events.
The following event dates were arranged:

- 31st March. 'Newts by torchlight', FD to lead, meet in the Village Hall car park at 8pm.
- 6 July. Bat walk possibly combined with watching swifts around the church. PC to contact Iain Webb who will lead. Meet Village Hall car park 9pm. **Action PC**
- 22 August. Pond dipping, FD to lead, meet on site at 2.30pm.
- 22 August. Setting out moth traps during late evening. FD to contact Peter Holt to confirm this date is OK with him. **Action FD**
- 23 August. Examination of the moth traps set on the previous evening, with breakfast. Meet in the Village Hall at 8am. (Subject to date being OK with Peter Holt)
- October. (Date to be determined). Fungus foray. PC to contact Lucy Evans for availability. **Action PC**

It was also suggested that for members only we should have another moth trapping event and a dawn chorus morning perhaps with breakfast after in the Village Hall. We will discuss these at our next meeting.

10. Any other business.

- GW said he had purchased 0.5kg of Bluebell seed which he had broadcast in Bourne Wood.
- FD asked about eradication of ragwort and GW confirmed he would be spot treating again. **Action GW**
- PC said he would discuss with the tenant farmer and County Farms about 'topping' the meadows again. **Action PC**

11. Date of next meeting.
This is on 9 April at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.