FRIENDS OF WORTS MEADOW
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Thursday 12 May 2016 Landbeach Village Hall

Present: Frances Dipper (Chairman), David Pell (Treasurer), Robert Humphrey (Secretary), Sandra Smith, John Smith, Guy Warren, Melanie Hale, Robert Stripe, John Buckley, Larry Bly, Anna Bilton, Graeme Bilton, Ruth McArthur.

1. FD welcomed everyone to our Annual General Meeting, apologies for absence from the following were recorded:
Ray Gambell, Dannie Gambell, Anna Hicks, Richard Taylor.

2. Agreeing the minutes of the 2015 AGM.
That these are accepted was proposed by AB and seconded by GW.

3. Matters arising from those minutes.
None.

4. Report on the activities of FOWM over the last year by the Chairman.

Local Community Activities
During the year we once again organised four public events:

- Bat Walk 6th July 2015 led by Iain Webb; Bourne Wood, churchyard, finishing at the Black Bull for refreshments and more bats; attended by 10 people who listened to lots of squeaks and sometimes saw a bat.
- Pond dipping 15th August; attended by 14 people; lots of mud, water boatmen and a few newts
- Moth trapping, identification session & breakfast 16th August 2015; led by Peter Holt; attended by seven people. Peter again stunned us with his knowledge by identifying many more species than we possibly could. The list of moths sighted is steadily growing.
- Amphibian torchlight walk 1st April 2016 led by Frances; attended by 5 people. The Half-moon pond was teeming with Great Crested Newts but there were very few in the other ponds. The Moat seemed to be the bijou residence for toads. No frogs seen but there had been plenty of spawn earlier in the year.
- In addition in late July, Robert Humphrey and Dick Newell assessed the swift in the church belfry boxes. There was a good show of 'screaming' swifts with about 30 circling the spire. Three birds were seen entering the boxes.

Further activities planned for this year are:

- Dawn Chorus 22nd May 2016 at 04.30 am followed by breakfast at the Black Bull
- Moth trapping and identification 3rd July 2016 8.00 am in the Village Hall. Bacon rolls and refreshments to keep you going.
- Pond dipping 3 September 2016 14.30 pm
- We are also trying to arrange a bat walk, fungus foray and a botanical survey.

Management activities
Ongoing management during the year has involved:

- The new pond, dug by County Farms during the winter 14/15, next to the 'Half Moon' pond at the edge of the wood has not yet settled enough to be useful and may be too shallow. We shall see….
- Nest boxes were cleaned out at the end of the season and had been well-used mainly by blue tits, but the open-fronted robin boxes were not used. Guy Warren has replaced the fronts of all boxes with metal due to ongoing damage from wood peckers. He has also erected a splendid woodpecker box to entice them away from the other boxes.
- The bird feeding station near the half-moon pond was kept topped up during the winter but the one in the wood has been dismantled due to damage.
- Dog waste continues to be a problem; new notices have been erected this month (May 2016); bags are still provided gratis by FOWM.
- New wood chippings were obtained and spread on paths on several occasions by work parties (with special thanks to Robert Humphrey)

Monitoring and recording wildlife

The waterproof file for recording wildlife sightings is still in place with only the occasional rude comments from (presumably) small (or bigger) boys. Frances will be showing some of the plants and animals recorded in and around Worts Meadow after the AGM.

Acknowledgements
Finally the Chairman would like to thank everyone who has given their time during the year to help with management activities, meetings and events. Everyone is welcome at all meetings, indoors or outdoors.

The Chairman's report was proposed by GB seconded by DP

5. Treasurer's report on the finances of FOWM.
DP handed out the accounts showing that we have a balance in the bank of £1587.23, he said all bills had been paid. FD said there was no shortage of funds and that we did not need to consider fund raising at this stage.
That the accounts be accepted was proposed by RS and seconded by LB.

6. Election of the Management Committee for the coming year.
The current committee were all willing to stand again and were re-elected en bloc.
a. Chairman: Frances Dipper
b. Treasurer: David Pell
c. Secretary: Robert Humphrey
d. Ordinary members: Phil Clark, Robert Stripe, Guy Warren, Richard Taylor.

Proposed MH, Seconded AB.

7. Amendments to the Constitution, if any.
FD said that none had been received.

8. Any other business.
None.

9. Date of the next Friends Group meeting.
This is on Wednesday 6 July at 7.30pm.

FD thanked Elaine Humphrey for providing the cake and the formal business ended at 8pm.

Frances then gave an informative illustrated presentation ‘Wildlife in and around Worts Meadow LNR’ including a photo of a recently discovered Water Vole at the moat.