Friends of Worts Meadow
Minutes of Committee Meeting Wednesday 26th July 2017

1. Welcome, introductions, apologies and notification of the Fire Procedures and emergency exit.
FD Made the usual introductions, thanked Elaine Humphrey for supplying the cake and welcomed Briony Davies, Senior Transformation Officer at Cambridgeshire County Council.
Present: Frances Dipper (Chairman), David Pell (Treasurer), Robert Humphrey (Secretary), Robert Stripe, Dannie Gambell, Ray Gambell, Anna Bilton, Guy Warren, Briony Davies, Melanie Hale.
Apologies for absence: Cllr. Anna Bradnam, Ruth McArthur.

2. Open discussion with Briony Davies.
Briony said that she was undertaking a review of the 8 Local Nature Reserves that are owned by Cambridgeshire County Council. She said that nature reserves were an important community asset and were useful in promoting healthy living. In this respect she asked us who used the reserve and whether there was more that the County Council could do to help us.
FD outlined that the reserve was used by dog walkers, joggers, parents with their children and nature lovers. She said that people from Cottenham and Waterbeach as well as Landbeach residents use the reserve.
Asked whether disabled people could access the reserve RG said that although it was possible to get a wheelchair through the gates he had found it difficult to navigate them.
FD went on to describe the events we organise and said that next year we hope to have a 24 hour Bio blitz with experts from various disciplines present assisted by the general public.
We were hoping to attract more members in particular younger people.
Briony said we seemed to be doing well but to let her know if there was anything she could help with.

3. Agreeing the minutes of the previous meeting (26th April as circulated).
These were agreed and signed**.**

4. Matters arising that are not covered elsewhere in the agenda.
FD said that the problem opening the large metal gate into Bourne Wood that was highlighted at the management walk needed to be fixed before we received any more wood chippings. It was also an access point for emergency vehicles. The gate post has moved and the gate has dropped to the ground. FD to contact Phil Clark/County Farms re this. **Action FD**

5. Management issues.
a. Annual work programme.

- Items 2c and 4c. Clearance of scrub in half moon area and clearance of bankside bramble by Amey volunteers. No news, FD to contact Phil Clark. **Action FD**
  In this connection GW suggested that a local farmer could be contracted to do some of this and also cut back the hedge on the Cockfen Lane side of the reserve where a request had been made to the Parish Council by a parishioner about it overhanging the roadway and scratching vehicles.
- Updated work programme for 2017/2018. Carry forward to the next meeting.

b. Construction of a 'Bug Hotel' by Amey volunteers. No News, FD to contact Phil Clark. **Action FD**

c. Discuss putting up bat boxes.
RG gave a report on bats using the Church and the possibility that Natterer's are using it to roost in as well as Pipistrelle and Brown Long-eared. Overall he thought there were fewer bats about in the village this summer.
FD said she would contact Iain Webb at the Wildlife Trust for advice on bat boxes to be put up in Bourne Wood. **Action FD**

d. Any other items. None.

6. Attracting new members.
See 10a re stand at Waterbeach Feast and Tithe Barn open day.
Suggestions made were:-

- RG thought we should have a joint strategy for promoting Worts Meadow, The Tithe Barn and the Parish Church.
- FD thought we should have a welcome letter to go out to new members and possibly a regular newsletter to go out using Mail Chimp which was free up to a certain circulation limit.
- FD thinks we should formalise the mailing list, this was agreed and she will contact RH re this. **Action FD**
- RG thought we could have a promotion brochure and wondered if Phil Clark has something we could adapt. FD to ask Phil. *(Note: since the meeting Melanie Hale has asked her daughter if she could help and she has agreed)* **Action FD**

7. Correspondence.
Nothing.

8. Treasurer's report.
DP said the only expenditure since our last meeting was £19.60 paid for the hire of the Village Hall. The balance at the bank was now £1066.15.
FD said that she noticed from our Constitution that our accounts should be 'audited or independently examined each year'. This will need to take place before our next AGM.

9. Group training/equipment.
a. Any requirements. There is no news on the Brushcutter course, carry forward to the next meeting.
RS said that he had undertaken courses in First Aid and Heavy Lifting at the Farmland Museum.

10. Events & Activities.
a. Report on events since our last meeting.

- Site visit by Froglife on 27th April to explore opportunities for improving the habitat for Great Crested Newts.

RH will circulate the summary prepared by Phil Clark to those who may not have seen it. **Action RH**

- Bird walk on 13th May. FD will circulate a list of those species seen. **Action FD**
- Waterbeach Feast stand and Tithe Barn open weekend stand.
  FD reported that the Waterbeach Feast stand manned by herself, Anna and Graeme Bilton was very successful and 11 new members were enrolled. Her small tank of water creatures attracted children and the August pond dipping event was advertised.
  If we have a similar stand in future more volunteers are required to man it.
  The unmanned stand at the Tithe Barn attracted just 1 new member.

b. Future events.

- Moth trapping. FD will contact Peter Holt to see if he can bring his equipment sometime in August for a member's only event.
- Pond dipping 26th August. FD reported this is on schedule. Help is required setting up during the morning for the event that commences at 2pm.
  FD will provide DP with 2 posters to laminate, these will be displayed at the main entrance to Worts Meadow and the entrance to the recreation ground children's play area. RH will arrange for posters to be displayed at Landbeach Baptist Church, 3 noticeboards in Waterbeach and at Tesco Milton. **Action FD, DP & RH**
- Regular work parties. Fix dates at next meeting.
- Date for checking and cleaning out nest boxes. Fix date at next meeting.

11. Any other business.

RH reported that the front panel of the nest box damaged by squirrels although advertised as predator proof had been replaced free of charge by the wholesaler.
RH also said that since our last meeting DP has strimmed the grass around the entrances and that RH and Steve Anderson had rubbed down and applied 2 coats of teak oil to the Bourne Wood benches. One of the benches may, however, require a new slat of wood.

12. Date of the next meeting and volunteer to provide refreshments.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 25th October starting at 7.30pm. DG volunteered to provide the refreshments.

The meeting ended at 9pm.