Friends of Worts Meadow
Minutes of Committee Meeting
Thursday 10 July 2014

1) Welcome, introductions and apologies.

Present: Frances Dipper (Chairman), Robert Humphrey (Secretary), Dannie Gambell, Ray Gambell, Ruth McArthur, Robert Stripe, Richard Taylor, Guy Warren.

Apologies for absence: David Pell, Anna Bilton, Graeme Bilton, Melanie Hale.

2) Agreeing minutes of previous meeting.

The Minutes were agreed.

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

3a. Dog waste posters update.
RH reported that Sarah Shepherd had offered to have a metal notice made, all we needed to do was agree the wording. Following a short discussion it was agreed that the notice should carry the FOWM logo followed by 'Please clean up after your dog. Health hazard to humans and other animals.'
FD to prepare a paper draft of the notice and circulate this to members for final agreement before sending it to Sarah. **Action FD**
GW and RG to work on a statement to go in 'What's on'. **Action GW & RG**

3b. Nets for barley straw.
GW said algae in the ponds and moat had not been a problem this year and no action was required at present.

3c. Notice Board.
FD said this had not been put up yet. The marine ply board had proved too hard to pin notices to and she was going to see if she could find an alternative. **Action FD**

3d. Bird feeding station.
GW said he could make a feeding station for about £150 on top of which we would need to buy some feeders. Meeting agreed he could go ahead and invoice for materials.
He suggested the station is situated near one of the seats in Bourne Wood.
RT said he would see if he could source some seed which was after its 'sell by date' through a relative who worked at a Garden Centre.

3e. New pond.
RH said that per email from Sarah Shepherd by July she should have a contractor in place and the work scheduled in. When the details were known she would advise us.

4. Correspondence.

- Melanie Hale emailed that thanks to Guy there had been a big difference in the amount of ragwort this year.
- Anna Bilton emailed that she had observed young newts at the Bourne Wood pond, in June 6+ young and 3 adults were seen one day.

- Iain Webb emailed today that he thought our bat walk this evening should be postponed because of the weather forecast. RH and FD had agreed this and an email informing members had gone out this morning plus a cancelled sticker on the posters. Iain had suggested a new date of 21 August and members present agreed this. RH to confirm date with Iain and put a notice in next 'What's on.' **Action RH**

5. Treasurer's report.
RH handed out the statement of our current financial position as prepared by our Treasurer, David Pell. Expenditure was now £1003.99 leaving £1846.01 in the bank account.

6. Group training/equipment.

6a. Risk Assessment workshop. Carry forward to next meeting.
FD said as a matter of course we must make risk assessments for our activities. RS pointed out that this included using the Village Hall for our indoor meetings and RH confirmed that he had submitted a risk assessment to the Village Hall Committee in respect of this.

6b. First aid training course.
In the absence of Phil Clark, RH read out his email of 13June which had gone out to members. There were no volunteers for this course from those present at the meeting. RG pointed out that one of the proposed dates, 25 October, was when we planned to have our fungus foray. RH to report back to Phil but ask for more details of the course in case members not present today were interested. **Action RH**

6c. Moth traps.
Meeting agreed that for now we would try to borrow moth traps for our events.
RT to investigate whether a cheaper alternative could be rigged up using battery powered emergency lighting and he will investigate the cost.

7. Events and Activities.

7a. Report on events since last meeting:
Management walk on 22May. In the absence of Phil Clark, FD gave a brief summary of the walk.
RH to remind Phil that he is to let us have a copy of the updated management plan. **Action RH**

7b. Future events:
- 26 July. Moth trapping evening for members only. FD to contact Phil Clark re this, we need to borrow a moth trap and have an expert on hand. **Action FD**
- 21 August. Bat walk starting at 8.15pm, Iain Webb to lead, RH to get notice in the next 'What's on' and FD to prepare posters. **Action FD & RH**
- 30 August. Pond dipping starting at 2.30pm. FD to lead and prepare posters, RH to get notice in next 'What's on'. **Action FD & RH**
- 30 August. Setting of moth traps, time not determined but event not to be publicised as unlikely to get much support outside our group. FD to contact Phil Clark re moth traps. **Action FD**
- 31 August. Examination of moth traps in Village Hall. RH said he had booked the hall from 8am to 10am, and as last year we would need to organise breakfast. RH to get a notice in next 'What's on' and FD to prepare posters and contact Phil Clark re expert. **Action FD & RH**
- 25 October. Fungus foray starting at 10am. FD to contact Phil Clark re expert. **Action FD**

- Periodic work parties. RH said that there seemed to be 'light' management work that we could undertake and we shouldn't leave everything to GW. For instance RH said he had recently cut back nettles and other vegetation from the entrance gates, around the seats and elm tree saplings. Members agreed proposal and the first date was fixed for September 20th starting at 10am.
  In the meantime GW and RT would fix a date for them to remove barbed wire on the ground in the half moon area. **Action GW & RT**

- Cleaning out nest boxes. First date also September 20th starting at 10am.

- Mowing ground vegetation in small area of Bourne Wood to encourage orchids. GW said he could do this with his strimmer at a time that suited him**.** **Action GW**

RH said that our future events, so far as planned, will also be publicised also in Fen Edge Patch news.

8. Ditch clearance by entrance gate to Bourne Wood.
No action.

9. Any other business.

- Earlier this year GW had spot treated the ragwort with 'Roundup' and thistles with 'Shield.' GW and FD had reviewed the results and whilst there had been a remarkable reduction in ragwort there was a big problem still with thistles. We are only allowed to spot treat weeds in the autumn/winter period which is before thistles are growing.
  FD is to email Sarah Shepherd to see if she can arrange for thistles in the first meadow to be cut off before they seed. **Action FD**

- RG said that Dick Newell (Action for Swifts) had offered to give us a talk and it was agreed we would invite him to do this at our 2015 AGM.

- GW asked if we could dredge the edge of the pond in the first meadow where cattle had reduced the size. He thought we could rent a small digger. FD said she would not want us to act without getting advice first on pond management and it was agreed we would put this on the agenda for our next meeting.

10. Date of next meeting.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 9 October at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.