

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

9 DECEMBER 2008 – 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Barnes, Chairman; Councillors Archer, Buckton and Cole plus Mr C Carson (from 7.25 pm), Mr P Catling and Mr M Hawes.

Apologies: Councillor Emery, Mr P Bridgement and Mr J Short.

The minutes of the meeting of 4 November 2008 were confirmed and signed.

SC11/08 Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

All matters arising from the last meeting were covered by items on the agenda for this meeting.

SC12/08 Management Plan

(1) Fishing - income

Further to minute SC7/08 (1), Mr Catling reported that Mr T Boswell has agreed to become a volunteer Bailiff to collect fees from anglers at the Pit.

Sub-Committee members decided that the current situation be noted.

(2) Carp Syndicate membership

Further to minute SC7/08 (2), Mr Catling reported that number of members of the Carp Syndicate has increased from 13 to 14 and he presented a cheque in the sum of £100 to the Chairman in respect of the additional membership fee.

In addition, Mr Catling sought the Sub-Committee's views in relation to the possibility of allowing junior membership of the Carp Syndicate and, if such membership were feasible, the level of fee that would be levied.

The Sub-Committee could see no problem in principle to allowing junior membership of the Carp Syndicate and considers that 60% of the adult annual membership fee (currently £100) would be an appropriate level. The current membership year expires on 31 August 2009, prior to which time membership issues and fee levels will be reviewed.

The Sub-Committee decided that

(1) the current situation be noted;

(2) junior membership be permitted until the expiry of the current membership year, by which time all membership issues and fee levels will have been reviewed for the next membership year, and that the fee for such membership be £60 per annum; given the length of the remainder of the current membership year, the actual fee to be charged will be £30 per junior member.

(3) Improvement/development works

Further to minute SC7/08 (3), the Sub-Committee considered the operational issues in relation to undertaking the "phase 1" improvement works scheduled for 29 and 30 December 2008. The considerations included debate on whether the surfacing of the footpath should be undertaken by way of laying large bark chippings or hardcore (made from crushed surplus block pavements) and on the equipment/machinery that would be needed.

In addition, Mr Catling circulated drawings that he had produced, in accordance with part (3) of the decision at minute SC7/08 (3), of a possible design for walkways. He explained the detail of the design and the suggested construction materials.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the "phase 1" footpath be surfaced using large bark chippings laid upon a protective membrane, the success of this surfacing being evaluated after twelve months of use;
- (2) depending upon the outcome of the evaluation mentioned at (1) above, consideration be given, at the appropriate time, to using hardcore as the surfacing material for the footpath works that would be undertaken as later phases of the improvement works; surfacing of the proposed access road could be surfaced using the type of hardcore mentioned in this minute;
- (3) Mr Hawes would arrange acquisition of the surfacing materials required for 29 and 30 December, to be delivered to the car park (or the alternative location identified in the event that the car park proved not to be a feasible location);
- (4) Councillor Barnes would obtain the necessary plant and equipment (e.g. mini-digger and trailer);
- (5) notices, seeking volunteers from within the community to assist with the works, be placed around the village by Councillor Archer;
- (6) the design and construction methods of the proposed walkways be approved in principle, subject to minor revision to the designs (e.g. additional handrails) to ensure that all health and safety issues are addressed.

SC13/08 Projects update

Mr Hawes reported to Sub-Committee members on the content of a letter from the Ecological Appraisal Officer at Anglian Water, provided by the officer subsequent to a meeting on-site, in which he makes recommendations regarding controlling algae, reducing siltation and controlling pond weed at the Pit.

Mr Hawes explained the actions recommended, in terms of the processes to be utilised and the types of chemicals that would be used, and the suggested timescales for the works.

Mr Carson expressed strong reservations regarding the use of chemicals to control weeds at the Pit, suggesting that a manual approach would be more suitable and also that there is a need to take care in identifying the areas where weed control is appropriate and necessary. Mr Carson suggested that such advice could be obtained from the Wildlife Trust.

Members of the Sub-Committee are mindful of the need to achieve a proper balance between both providing a facility for anglers and maintaining the environmental integrity of the Pit. Consequently, it is important to control only the weeds which would impact adversely upon the areas of the Pit where fishing would take place; this equates to around 30% of the total Pit area needing to be kept free of weeds.

It is also important, in terms of maintaining the environmental integrity of the Pit, to ensure that all endangered species of weeds/plants are not removed by any works undertaken. Members are anxious not to put at risk the Pit's status as a County Wildlife Site.

After considerable debate, it was concluded that, as no such works could be undertaken earlier than the Spring of next year, there would be time to obtain advice on the most appropriate action to take.

Sub-Committee members decided that

- (1) no weed and algae control or siltation reduction works be undertaken until appropriate advice has been obtained and considered;
- (2) advice be obtained by Mr Carson from the Wildlife Trust;
- (3) the matter be considered further at the next meeting.

SC14/08 Costings for grant bid

Further to minute SC9/08, Councillor Buckton reported on the current position regarding the application for grant aid under the Awards for All scheme.

Councillor Buckton informed the Sub-Committee that the application is almost complete. The bid now includes the costs of spraying of reeds and improvement works to the access road. He stated that, when complete, the amount of funding sought would be close to the maximum available under the Awards for All scheme.

Sub-Committee members were informed that the grant aid process requires the submission of a copy of the Parish Council's 2007/08 audited accounts (to be certified by the Chairman of the Parish Council) with the application.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the current progress situation be noted;
- (2) a copy of the Parish Council's audited accounts for 2007/08 be provided to Councillor Buckton by the Clerk to the Parish Council;
- (3) a further update be presented to the next meeting.

SC15/08 Next meeting

Members decided that the next meeting of the Sub-Committee be held on 20 January 2009, commencing at 7.00 pm, at the British Legion Club, Manea.

Meeting finished at 8.45 pm.

Signature:.....(Sub-Committee Chairman).

Date:.....