

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

11 AUGUST 2009 – 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Barnes, Chairman; Councillors Archer, Buckton, Cole and Emery plus Mr M Hawes and Mr R Miller. In addition, Mr S Bullman and Mr I Fost attended by invitation.

Apologies: Mr D Stevens.

The minutes of the meeting of 16 June 2009 were confirmed and signed.

SC11/09 Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

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

SC12/09 Informal meeting of 7 July 2009

Further to minute SC10/09, Councillor Barnes reported on the key matters discussed by the three other attendees and he at the informal meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 7 July 2009. In summary:

- the achievements in relation to the development/improvement works to the pit over the preceding 12 months;
- the swim works undertaken and planned;
- providing a display at Manea Gala on 11 July 2009;
- the weed inspection undertaken on 1 July, at which the areas requiring minor weed control measures were identified; it was concluded, based upon the quotations received, that the barley straw method of weed control would be too expensive;
- proposals for filling and piping the dyke.

The Sub-Committee decided to note the matters discussed at the meeting on 7 July 2009.

SC13/09 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects

The Chairman expressed the opinion that excellent progress is being achieved in respect of delivery of the works within the management plan, particularly given that they commenced only one year ago, and that there has been a considerable amount of positive comment from the community in relation to the development works to date.

The Chairman reported on the current position in relation to the improvement/developments at Manea Pit, as follows:

- the "Dogs must be kept on a lead; Please clean up after your dog" signs (minute SC7/09 (2) refers) have been obtained and erected;
- as a result of works to swims on 18 July 2009, all of the materials purchased originally for the development works have now been used and additional sleepers and scaffold poles have been ordered;
- there is a need to complete works on the provision of steps at the swims (which could undertaken during the next work party);
- application has been made, following agreement to such action by the Parish Council at its last meeting, to the Manea and Welney District Drainage Commissioners (MWDDC) for consent to fill and pipe the dyke. Receipt of the application was acknowledged by the MWDDC on 28 July 2009;

- following the inspection on 1 July 2009, weed control measures were undertaken by Mr M Hawes around three weeks ago to control the lilies at the areas identified as requiring such measures. The works undertaken were the minimum deemed necessary to ensure that the pit is capable of being fished effectively;
- both the Bailiff arrangements in relation to the collection of fishing fees at the pit and the sale of tickets at the Post Office appear to be operating effectively.

With regard to the weed control measures undertaken in July, Mr M Hawes informed the Sub-Committee that, when carrying out this work, he had noticed weed growth in the channels (albeit not in the fishing areas). He reminded Sub-Committee members that it would be necessary to undertake weed control works, possibly using barley straw, in November 2009 and then again in the Spring of 2010.

The Chairman read a letter from Councillor Risbridger, in which he raises concerns regarding the proposal to fill and pipe the dyke because of the potential drainage implications of such action as well as the potential for subsequent damage to the verge by facilitating the parking of vehicles; additionally, he mentions the lack of progress in developing the proposed picnic area. Most of these issues raised by Councillor Risbridger were felt by the Sub-Committee to have been addressed through discussion at the last meeting of the Parish Council.

Some concerns were expressed regarding the effectiveness of the signage in addressing the dog fouling problems at the pit and whether additional measures could be taken in this regard. There was also discussion regarding a level of discontent within the fishing community in connection with the need to purchase a second season ticket to be able to fish using a second rod.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the current progress situation be noted;
- (2) the dog fouling situation be monitored and further control measures be considered if/when necessary;
- (3) the comments made by Councillor Risbridger be noted and that the proposal to develop a picnic area be progressed as a priority initiative;
- (4) all issues raised by the fishing community during the 2009/10 fishing season will be taken into account by the Sub-Committee when making recommendations to the Parish Council in respect of fees for 2010/11;
- (5) work parties be arranged for 15 August (the focus being to undertake further works to the swims, including providing steps) and 19 September 2009 (the focus being development of a picnic area).

SC14/09 Grant funding for possible play area

Further to minute SC8/09, Councillor Buckton reminded members of the bidding criteria (including the need to establish a community-based steering group) and the short timescale for the submission of funding applications from the sources mentioned at minute SC30/08 in relation to the development of play areas and he informed them that, in the light of those factors, it had not been considered by the Parish Council to be a viable proposition on this occasion. However, if similar funding is made available in 2010/11, the establishment of a steering group and submission of an application would be feasible.

The Sub-Committee noted the information reported and supported the principle of establishing community-based steering groups for specific new projects and initiatives for the pit and playing fields area.

SC15/09 Carp Syndicate – fees and rules

Further to minute SC2/09, members discussed the level of Carp Syndicate membership fee for 2009/10, together with issues in relation to the maximum number of members that the syndicate should be permitted and some operational issues covered by the syndicate's rules.

Councillor Buckton proposed that, given the significant contribution, in terms of manpower, made by members of the Carp Syndicate to the undertaking of improvement/development works at the pit, the level of membership fee should remain at the current level for 2009/10.

Councillor Archer expressed the view that failure to increase the Carp Syndicate membership fee would not be equitable, bearing in mind that the cost of a fishing season ticket had been increased by almost 40% for 2009/10.

Councillor Cole supported the proposition of Councillor Buckton in relation to the level of membership fee and, additionally, recommended that the maximum number of members of the syndicate be increased from 20 to 30. This proposition was supported by all Sub-Committee members except Councillor Archer.

Arising from debate on fees and membership numbers, discussion ensued in relation to some of the Carp Syndicate rules, e.g. the use of bait boats and the number of rods permitted per swim.

The Sub-Committee decided

- (1) that the rules of the Carp Syndicate be considered at the next meeting;
- (2) to RECOMMEND to the Parish Council that the Carp Syndicate membership fee for 2009/10 remains at £100 and that the maximum number of permitted members of the syndicate be increased from 20 to 30.

(Councillor Archer requested that his dissent from the recommendation in relation to the proposed level of membership fee be recorded)

(The Chairman agreed to this item of business being discussed as a matter of urgency given that current Carp Syndicate memberships expire on 31 August 2009)

SC16/09 Next meeting

Members decided that the next meeting of the Sub-Committee be held on 22 September 2009, commencing at 7.00 pm, at the Pavilion.

Meeting finished at 8.35 pm.

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

Date:.....