

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

11 MARCH 2009 – 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Barnes, Chairman; Councillors Archer, Buckton and Emery plus Mr C Carson, Mr M Hawes and Mr J Short.

Apologies: Councillor Cole plus Mr P Bridgement and Mr P Catling.

The minutes of the meeting of 20 January 2009 were confirmed and signed.

SC21/08 Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

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

SC22/08 Management Plan

(1) Fishing - income

Further to minute SC17/08 (1), the Clerk reported that he had written to the holders of the receipt books, requesting that they be sent to him for validation purposes.

As a result of the Clerk's letter, Councillor Archer presented his book to the Clerk at the Sub-Committee meeting and Councillor Emery passed on the book, together with £30.00 in income from the sale of fishing tickets, which was held by Mr P Bridgement. In addition, Councillor Emery reported that Mr Boswell had sold no tickets and, consequently, had issued no receipts. Councillor Barnes agreed to contact Mr Catling regarding the receipt book in his possession.

The Sub-Committee discussed whether it is necessary to continue to operate, at the pit, the process of having a closed season (i.e. for the period 15 March to 16 July each year) for fishing. Members consider that there is no specific reason to prohibit fishing in the pit during the annual closed season; continuing to allow fishing at the pit during the closed season would not prevent the undertaking of maintenance works to the pit.

The Sub-Committee decided that

(1) the current financial position be noted;

(2) fishing be allowed at the pit during the closed season; the annual season tickets would continue to be issued for the period June to March and persons wanting to fish during the closed season would need to purchase day tickets.

(2) Carp Syndicate membership

Further to minute SC17/08 (2), Mr Short reported that Mr Catling had received enquiries from two people interested in becoming members of the Carp Syndicate.

The Sub-Committee is aware that the current membership stands at 14 adults and 2 junior members and is happy to increase this by two further adult members at this time and, consequently, considered an appropriate level of membership fee for persons who become members for periods of less than a full year.

The Sub-Committee felt it appropriate for membership fees for periods of less than a full membership year to be as follows:

- a period of between 6 and 12 months, 100% of the annual fee
- a period of less than 6 months, 50% of the annual fee.

The Sub-Committee decided that

(1) membership of the Carp Syndicate be offered to the enquirers at a fee of £50.00 each for the remainder of the membership year, i.e. until the end of August 2009;

(2) the Chairman would inform Mr Catling of the decision at (1) above, to enable him to respond to the enquirers.

(3) Improvement/development works

Further to minute SC17/08 (3), the Chairman reported that two "This footpath is for pedestrian use only" signs had been purchased by the Clerk and that they would be erected at suitable locations at each end of the footpath in the very near future. In addition, the Chairman informed members that he is currently looking to identify a suitable location for siting a notice board that will serve both the users of the pit and the allotments.

Councillor Archer reported that some of the bark chippings laid on the footpath have become displaced because of its usage and the Sub-Committee acknowledged that the situation needs to be kept under review and arrangements made for the chippings to be "topped up" as necessary.

It was noted that someone had cut down some brambles alongside the footpath at a particular location adjacent to the pit. None of the Sub-Committee members was aware of the identity of the person but all acknowledged the importance of not allowing unknown "volunteers" to undertake "unauthorised" works at the pit, however well intentioned. All works need to be overseen by the Sub-Committee and accord with the management plan for the pit. Sub-Committee members are of the opinion that when identity of the individual becomes known, it may be worthwhile to invite that person to attend meetings of the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee decided that

(1) the current situation be noted;

(2) both the condition of the footpath and the undertaking of "unauthorised" works be monitored closely and addressed as necessary.

SC23/08 Projects update

Further to minute SC18/08, Mr Carson reported that the Middle Level Commissioners are no longer able to undertake external contracts and, consequently, they would not be able to assist with weed control at the pit.

Sub-Committee members were informed by the Chairman that Mr Catling had made contact with Stillwater Management, as agreed at minute SC18/08, and the company has responded to his enquiry by informing him that it requires payment of a consultation fee of £350.00 to undertake an assessment of the weed control measures etc required to the pit.

Given the current situation, the Sub-Committee discussed how to proceed in terms of weed control at the pit in the absence of support from external agencies/companies. Members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of both chemical and mechanical methods of weed control and, in terms of the scale of the necessary works, are aware that there are only certain areas within the pit where weed control is necessary.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the services of Stillwater Management be not engaged at this time;
- (2) the position regarding the Middle Level Commissioners be noted;
- (3) as many members of the Sub-Committee will meet at the pit on 14 March 2009 (at 1.00 pm) to identify the areas where weed control is necessary, for further discussion at the next meeting.

SC24/08 Costings for grant bid

Further to minute SC19/08, Councillor Buckton reported that, following submission of the application, Awards for All requested recent bank statements from the Parish Council. The statements were sent, as requested, and confirmation has subsequently been received that the body is now in possession of all the information that it needs to assess the application.

Councillor Buckton informed the Sub-Committee that a decision on the application is expected by the end of March 2009.

The Sub-Committee considers it important to be aware of other sources of grant aid available, not only in the event that the application for funding under the Awards for All scheme is unsuccessful but also to seek funding opportunities to support additional improvement/development works at the pit.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) Councillor Buckton would examine all of the grant aid information in his possession to identify possible sources of further funding and report his findings to the next meeting;
- (2) it will be necessary to identify specific projects which would deliver works contained within the management plan, for which grant applications could be made;
- (3) members of the Sub-Committee would give thought individually to possible projects and report their development/improvement ideas to the next meeting;
- (4) Mr Carson would investigate the possibility of obtaining grant aid from any Environmental bodies and report on his findings to the next meeting;
- (5) an inspection of the pit be undertaken as part of the next Sub-Committee meeting.

SC25/08 Next meeting

Members decided that the next meeting of the Sub-Committee be held on 14 April 2009, commencing at 7.00 pm, at the Pavilion (to facilitate the pit inspection agreed at minute SC24/08).

Meeting finished at 8.25 pm.

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

Date:.....