

# MANEA PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE

## MINUTES OF MEETING

15 DECEMBER 2009 – 7.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Buckton, in the Chair; Councillors Cole and Emery plus Mr C Carson, Mr I Fost, Mr M Hawes, Mr R Miller, Mrs P Smith and Mr D Stevens (in place of Mr P Catling).

**Apologies:** Councillors Archer and Barnes plus Mr P Catling.

The minutes of the meeting of 10 November 2009 were confirmed and signed.

### SC28/09 Chairman for the meeting

In the absence of both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Sub-Committee, Councillor Buckton was appointed as Chairman for the meeting.

### SC29/09 Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

#### (1) Rules for fishing at Manea Pit (minute SC24/09)

Mr R Miller suggested that, given that additional Carp are now being added to Manea Pit, it would be appropriate to include an additional rule to the list approved at minute SC24/09, stating that "No Carp to be kept in keep nets; they must be released immediately".

The Sub-Committee decided that the Rules for Fishing at Manea Pit, approved at minute SC24/09, be revised to include the additional rule detailed above and that the amended document be publicised and distributed as appropriate.

#### (2) Terms of Reference and Standing Orders of Sub-Committee (minute SC25/09)

Mr D Stevens circulated copies of the notes of a Carp Syndicate meeting held on 3 December 2009, which stated that the two representatives of the Carp Syndicate on the Sub-Committee would be Mr P Catling and Mr R Miller and that Mr D Stevens would attend Sub-Committee meetings, as a deputy, in the event that one or more of the formal representatives were unable to attend.

In addition: Mr Hawes (acting as Fisheries Adviser), Mr I Fost (representative of the Coarse Anglers) and Mr C Carson (acting as Conservation Adviser) will remain as members of the Sub-Committee. Mrs P Smith has joined the Sub-Committee (as a representative of the community).

The Sub-Committee decided that the membership situation be noted and that efforts be made to attract additional representation from the wider community.

### SC30/09 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects

The Sub-Committee discussed a number of issues in relation to delivery of the management plan, as follows:

- (1) Fishing platforms – as a result of the work parties on 28 November and 12 December 2009, the necessary works are almost complete. It is felt that the amount of work required to complete the fishing platforms could be undertaken by one further work party.

Councillor Cole reported that there is now a need to purchase additional construction materials (i.e. sleepers and scaffold poles) to achieve completion of all works.

Mr Carson reported on his investigations into possible surfacing materials/methods for those fishing platforms designed for use by disabled anglers. He informed the Sub-Committee that the most appropriate method of surfacing the platforms which will be made available to those anglers who are wheelchair users is a mixture of granite chippings and dust.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) there be an on-site inspection by certain members of the Sub-Committee, on 19 December 2009, to assess the exact works required and the quantity of construction and surfacing materials needed for that work and to identify which of the swims would be provided with surfacing for wheelchair users;
  - (2) following the outcome of the inspection, the necessary construction and surfacing materials be purchased and a further work party be convened to undertake the remaining works.
- (2) Weed control – Messrs Carson, Fost and Hawes each reported on their investigations into the appropriateness of Dyofix as a means of weed control in Manea Pit. Both Mr Carson and Mr Hawes had spoken with a representative of the company (a Mr Peter Wilson) which manufactures this product.

Mr Carson stated that, as a result of his discussions with Mr Wilson, it is clear that the use of Dyofix would be likely to result in the loss of all plant life below the surface of the water in the Pit. He added that he had been informed by Mr Wilson that Dyofix had been used at one location locally but had not proved successful in controlling weed growth.

Mr Hawes informed the Sub-Committee that his conversation with Mr Wilson had been very similar to the one had by Mr Carson. Mr Hawes is confident that Dyofix would be effective in controlling the blanket weed in the Pit but such weed control could destroy temporarily other plant life.

Mr Carson stated that, given the status of Manea Pit as a County Wildlife Site and the existence of rare plants in the Pit, it is not acceptable, based upon the results of the latest investigations, to use Dyofix as the means of weed control. The Sub-Committee acknowledged the position stated by Mr Carson and, consequently, discussed other potential options for weed control in Manea Pit.

Reflecting upon previous discussions on this matter, the Sub-Committee considers that the only possible viable option (bearing in mind cost, timescales and effectiveness) for controlling the blanket weed is the use of barley straw.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) Dyofix not be used as a means of weed control at Manea Pit but that the option of possibly using barley straw (as discussed on previous occasions) be pursued;
- (2) investigations be undertaken by Mr M Hawes in relation to the amount of barley straw that would be needed, plus the availability and cost of such;

- (3) a decision be made at the next meeting as to whether or not barley straw be used as the means of weed control at Manea Pit;
- (4) subject to the outcome of (2) above, a work party be organised for an appropriate date in February 2010 for the purpose of adding the barley straw to Manea Pit.
- (3) Fish stocks – Mr Hawes reported that, subsequent to the decision of Manea Parish Council (to allocate a sum of £6,000 to be spent on the purchase of Carp, with the fish being provided in the current financial year but payment being made in two instalments of £4,000 in the current financial year and £2,000 in 2010/11), 21 Carp had been placed in the Pit last week and that a further 25 to 30 would be added later this week.

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

- (4) Water quality – Mrs P Smith sought the Sub-Committee's opinion on whether or not it would be beneficial to obtain quality samples of the water in Manea Pit. Mrs Smith stated that she would be happy to obtain quotations for such work.

The Sub-Committee decided to accept the offer of Mrs P Smith to obtain three quotations for the provision of a water quality survey in respect of Manea Pit.

#### (5) Open spaces

- a) Picnic area – Councillor Buckton reported that he and Councillor Archer had been unable, to date, to develop a plan for the layout/design of this area.

The Sub-Committee decided that the current position be noted and that Councillors Archer and Buckton would develop, for consideration at the next meeting, a plan for the layout/design of this area.

- b) Car park area – in the absence of Councillor Barnes from the meeting, no information on the development of a potential improvement scheme for this area was available.

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

- c) Field adjoining Pit – Mr Carson reported that he had been unable to produce, for consideration at this meeting, a layout plan for a potential community orchard on this land and, in fact, he stated that he did not recall agreeing at the last meeting to undertake such an action.

The Sub-Committee is keen that this piece of land be utilised as a community resource/facility (which could include a community orchard and car parking) and, as such, it is important to consult local people on any proposals that emerge for the use of this land. It is acknowledged, however, that, to effect meaningful public consultation, proposals will need to be drafted.

The Sub-Committee supported the suggestion of Mrs P Smith that she would discuss the matter with Mary Larham, to assist the development of potential schemes, and report back on those discussions. Mr I Fost made the offer of producing electronic design drawings of potential schemes.

The Sub-Committee decided that undertake the discussions agreed and to report back to the next meeting on progress.

- (6) Health and Safety – Mrs Smith emphasised the importance of monitoring constantly the health and safety issues in relation to Manea Pit, to demonstrate that the Parish Council is exercising effectively its duty of care to the community in that regard.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) a further Health and Safety report in relation to Manea Pit be commissioned following completion of the programme of improvement and development works;
- (2) all future agendas for meetings of the Sub-Committee would include a Health and Safety item.

**SC31/09 Carp Syndicate – membership and fees income**

Further to minute SC23/09, members were informed of the number of current members of the Carp Syndicate and the total level of income to date from membership fees.

Sub-Committee members were pleased to note that Mr P Catling had resumed the role of Secretary/Treasurer of the Carp Syndicate.

The Sub-Committee decided to note that the membership of the Carp Syndicate has increased, since the last meeting, from 17 to 23 members and that the total income from Carp Syndicate membership has, consequently, increased by £360.00 (i.e. the six additional members each paying £60.00).

**SC32/09 Manea Pit – Strategic Plan 2008/11**

Further to minute SC26/09, the Sub-Committee members are of the opinion that it would be inappropriate to consider the Manea Pit Strategic Plan 2008/11 in the absence of the Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee decided that the matter be deferred, for consideration at the next meeting.

**SC33/09 Next meeting**

Members decided that the next meeting of the Sub-Committee be held on 12 January 2010, commencing at 7.00 pm, at the Pavilion, Park Road, Manea.

**Meeting finished at 8.35 pm.**

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

Date:.....