

# MANEA PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE

## MINUTES OF MEETING

16 JUNE 2009 – 7.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Barnes, Chairman; Councillors Buckton, Cole and Emery plus Mr C Catling, Mr M Hawes, Mr R Miller and Mr J Short. In addition, Mr S Bullman, Mr I Fost, Mr R Shadbolt and Mr D Stevens attended as observers.

**Apologies:** Councillor Archer.

The minutes of the meeting of 19 May 2009 were confirmed and signed.

### SC6/09 Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

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

### SC7/09 Management Plan and projects

#### (1) Fishing – income/fees

Further to minute SC2/09 (1), the Chairman reported on negative comments that had been made by local people in relation to the decision taken at that minute in respect of the cost of fishing season tickets for 2009/10.

The Chairman stated that, having reflected upon the situation and taken into account the comments made by local people in this matter, he had decided not to take any action in relation to the decision at minute SC2/09 (1) and to refer the matter to the Parish Council for consideration at its meeting on 15 June 2009.

The Chairman reported that other members of the Parish Council had made the point at the Parish Council meeting that they too had received and heard similar comments to those described by Councillor Barnes and that they supported his stance in the matter.

Members of the Sub-Committee were informed that the Parish Council had decided, at its meeting on 15 June 2009, that

- the cost of an annual season ticket for an adult be £25 for the period June 2009 to June 2010;
- the new cost of an annual season ticket for a senior citizen or a child of 12 years of age or older be £15 for the period June 2009 to June 2010;
- an annual season tickets for a child under 12 years of age be free-of-charge;

Various views were expressed by attendees at the Sub-Committee meeting; some were in favour of not increasing fees to the level agreed at minute SC2/09 (1) and others expressed the opinion that the level of fees agreed by the Parish Council (as set out above) are too low; a number of alternative fees options were suggested and debated.

The Chairman explained that, whatever views others may have in this matter, the Parish Council has made a final decision, which he would now implement.

The Chairman expressed his concerns regarding the effectiveness of the current Bailiff arrangements in relation to the collection of fees for day fishing tickets – a view shared by the Clerk from the perspective of proper auditing functions – and informed the Sub-Committee that the Parish Council had agreed to consider the creation of a part - time post to be responsible for this activity and other “estates” (such as the allotments, cemetery and playing field) issues.

In addition, the Chairman asked attendees if they were able to assist in identifying one or two additional volunteers to collect fees for day fishing tickets. It is known that Councillor Jolley would be happy to volunteer and the Sub-Committee is pleased to accept his offer. In addition, Mr I Fost offered his services for this purpose. His offer was also accepted by the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee decided that the current situation regarding the decision of the Parish Council in relation to the cost of season tickets be noted and that arrangements be made to enlist the support of the additional Bailiffs.

## **(2) Improvement/development works and projects**

The Chairman expressed the opinion that good progress is being achieved in respect of delivery of the works within the management plan. He reported that a notice board has been provided in the vicinity of the pit (by re-locating the board which was situated in the vicinity of the tennis courts) and contains information on fishing season tickets and rules; dates of future work parties will be advertised on the board.

Mr M Hawes reported that he is awaiting receipt of an estimate of the cost of three possible options, as he explained to the Sub-Committee, to achieve effective weed control at Manea Pit. He stated that he had sent a sample of the water from the pit to be analysed by the company which he has asked to provide estimates for the cost of weed control measures. He informed Sub-Committee members that the most effective time for the weed control measures to be undertaken would be October/November.

Mr Hawes expects to be in a position to report the estimates to the next Sub-Committee meeting.

A number of Sub-Committee members mentioned the fact that some people who walk their dogs around the pit area allow them to foul and do not clear up afterwards. It was considered appropriate that appropriate signage – bearing the wording “Dogs must be kept on a lead; Please clean up after your dog” - be procured and erected.

The Sub-Committee decided that the current situation be noted and that: future work parties be scheduled for 27 June and 18 July 2009; a group of Sub-Committee members would assemble at the pit on 7 July 2009 to identify the areas where weed control measures are necessary; “dog” signage be purchased and erected.

## **SC8/09 Grant funding**

Further to minute SC4/09, Councillor Buckton reported that there currently no new grant applications “in the pipeline” but was that he was able to update the Sub-Committee on the possibility of obtaining funding from the sources mentioned at minute SC30/08 in relation to the development of play areas. Councillor Buckton explained that the bidding criteria requires the establishment of a community-based steering group and consultations with young people and has a relatively short timescale for the submission of funding applications. He stated that he would discuss the viability of proceeding with such an initiative with members of the Parish Council when they meet informally on 18 June 2009.

The Chairman informed the Sub-Committee of the level of expenditure to date from the grant awarded to the Parish Council under the Awards for All scheme.

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

**SC9/09 Re-launch of Sub-Committee**

Councillor Buckton suggested that, given that it has been in existence for approximately one year, it is now appropriate to re-launch the Sub-Committee and, in addition, to undertake measures to increase the community's awareness of both the work that has carried out to date and is planned for the future in respect of the development of Manea Pit as a community facility.

Councillor Buckton mentioned discussion that had taken place at the meeting of the Parish Council on 15 June in relation to communicating the work of the Parish Council and the actions that had been agreed (minute M21/09 refers) in that regard. The "messages" to be communicated to the community would include the award of the grant for works to Manea Pit and the development/improvement works that have been undertaken or are planned.

The Clerk added that, in his opinion, it would be desirable to review, on the basis of one year's operation, the Terms of Reference and Standing Orders of the Sub-Committee to ensure that they remain fit for purpose and that he would be making such a recommendation to the Parish Council.

The Sub-Committee decided that the current situation be noted and to endorse the suggestions in relation to re-launching and developing the Sub-Committee.

**SC10/09 Next meeting**

Members decided that an informal meeting of the Sub-Committee, for the purpose of discussing how the development work in relation to Manea Pit could be promoted/publicised via the Manea Gala on 11 July 2009, be held on 7 July; the date of the next formal meeting would be agreed by the Chairman in liaison with the Clerk to Manea Parish Council.

**Meeting finished at 8.45 pm.**

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

Date:.....