

# MANEA PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE

## MINUTES OF MEETING

24 JUNE 2010 – 7.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Buckton, Chairman; Councillors Archer (until 7.30 pm), Cole, Mrs Desborough and Emery plus Mr P Catling, Mr I Fost, Mr R Miller and Mrs P Smith.

**Apologies:** None.

The minutes of the meeting of 5 May 2010 were confirmed and signed.

### **SC1/10 Appointment of Chairman**

Councillor Buckton was appointed as Chairman of the Sub-Committee for the municipal year 2010/11.

### **SC2/10 Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

The Sub-Committee decided not to appoint a Vice-Chairman but to operate on the basis of appointing a member to chair a meeting in the event of the Chairman's absence.

### **SC3/10 Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting**

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

### **SC4/10 Field adjoining Manea Pit – possible use as Community Orchard**

Further to minute SC55/09, Mrs Smith reported on her further investigations into possible sources of grant aid; she stated that she had not pursued the possibility of accessing funding via various "environmental" sources, (including WREN, SITA and BIFFAWARD) because the eligibility criteria for these grants is the same as the other "landfill tax" grants that she had investigated previously.

Mrs Smith reported that she had been informed by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation that the Parish Council would be eligible to make an application to the Donarbon Community Fund for a grant towards this project provided that the Parish Council was able to raise 10% in advance of the application of the grant sum applied for; the 10% could include financial donations and sponsorships from the community.

Mrs Smith informed the Sub-Committee that she had made a pre-application submission, on-line, to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and that she expected to receive a response from the HLF within 10 working days of the submission as to whether a formal application for a grant is likely to be successful. She explained the nature of the information that she had included in the pre-application submission; she made the point that for an application to be successful, it needs to demonstrate that the project for which funding is being sought would create heritage and provide amenity and education/learning/awareness for the community.

Mrs Smith stated that she has informed the HLF that the Parish Council would be applying for a grant of £7,100 towards a total scheme cost of approximately £7,500.

In addition, Mrs Smith informed the Sub-Committee that she had made further contact with the Brownies and other interested parties regarding the current situation and informing them that further community consultation and

participation would take place as the scheme progresses. One donation towards the cost of a tree has been sent to the Parish Council.

The Chairman reported that Mrs Carson and he had met with the Headteacher of the Community Primary School, with the aim of engaging children in the project, and he informed the Sub-Committee briefly of the nature of the discussions and the fact that, as a result, it is anticipated that the school would have some involvement in the project.

The Sub-Committee discussed the need to provide vehicular access, together with a limited amount of car parking (space for 4 or 5 cars), to the site and how this could be achieved.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the current grant funding situation be noted;
- (2) Councillor Archer would ascertain from Fenland District Council whether there would be any requirement for the Parish Council to obtain planning permission for change of use of the land for orchard/woodland purposes;
- (3) Councillor Cole would discuss, with the potential contractor identified, the construction of a roadway to the site, together with a hard standing area to accommodate 4 or 5 cars.

#### **SC5/10 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 etc – Mr Miller reported that the works are almost complete.

The Sub-Committee decided that the current progress situation be noted;

- (2) Picnic area – the Sub-Committee noted that tidying of the picnic area had been undertaken and that the benches would be installed at the site later this week.
- (3) Wildlife Trust – the Chairman reported on the “walk around” of Manea Pit on 12 May 2010 involving himself, Councillor Emery and two representatives of the Wildlife Trust. He informed the Sub-Committee that the Wildlife Trust recommends the production of a management plan for fish stocks and that no further fish be added to Manea Pit during the next two years. He added that the representatives of the Wildlife Trust are very impressed with the development works undertaken at Manea Pit and have suggested improving the plant life in the pit and undertaking a minor programme of tree management. The representatives of the Wildlife Trust also gave advice in relation to environmental stewardship arrangements.

The Sub-Committee decided that the information reported by the Chairman be noted and to acknowledge the need to produce various subject specific plans and to refresh the existing, or develop a new, Management Plan for Manea Pit.

#### **SC6/10 Manea Pit – Health and Safety**

The Sub-Committee considered whether there are currently any health and safety issues relating to Manea Pit.

The Sub-committee identified no new health and safety issues since the last meeting and was informed that the necessary works required to the tree with a dead branch have now been undertaken.

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

## **SC7/10 Various fishing issues**

Further to minute SC58/09 (1), the Chairman reported on the proposal produced by Mr Fost for the purchase of additional fish (excluding Carp) for Manea Pit, following approval by Manea Parish Council (at minute M8/10 (4)) to allocate a sum of £500.00 for this purpose. Mr Fost explained that, following his investigations into appropriate species of suitable fish, he is proposing the purchase of one species only; the species being Ide. For the sum of £500.00, it is anticipated that between 300 and 350 would be acquired.

The Sub-Committee agreed that it is necessary to provide protection from predators for these additional fish while they are in the middle pond (prior to their transfer to the pit in around two years time) and supported an approach suggested by Mr Fost and Mr Miller to achieve the necessary means of protection, at an estimated cost of £135.00. The Sub-Committee also supported an approach suggested by Mr Fost for levelling and boarding the raised fishing area at the top pond, at an estimated cost of £102.00.

In addition, Mr Fost presented the Clerk with the sum of £629.36 (£725.00 less printing costs etc) from the sale of fishing tickets. The Sub-Committee then discussed briefly, in the knowledge that both Councillor Jolley and Mr T Bosworth are no longer acting in this capacity, whether there is a need to seek to "recruit" additional Bailiffs

Members were informed by Mr Catling of the number of current members of the Carp Syndicate for 2010/11 to date, each of whom had paid the annual membership fee of £110, giving fees income of £2,090.00. Mr Catling handed to the Clerk the fees income received. The Sub-Committee considered the levy of fee that should be levied for junior members and the criteria that should apply for qualification for that status.

The Sub-Committee decided

- (1) to note that the membership of the Carp Syndicate for the 2010/11 season currently stands at 19 members and that income of £2,090.00 has been received as a result;
- (2) that the fee for Junior members be set at 50% of the adult rate and that to qualify for such membership, the member must be less than 18 years of age;
- (3) that Mr Fost be authorised to proceed with: acquisition of the additional fish (at a cost of £500 excluding VAT); implementing the agreed means of protecting the new fish from predators (at an estimated cost of £135); arranging the works for providing boarding to the raised fishing area at the top pond (at an estimated cost of £102);
- (4) the need to recruit additional Bailiffs be considered at a future meeting of the Sub-Committee if/when it proves necessary.

## **SC8/10 Sub-Committee discussions, decision-making and implementation of actions**

The Chairman reported his views as to how meetings of the Sub-Committee should operate, i.e. that

- discussions at the meetings should link clearly to the respective agenda item and consequently result in agreement as to specific actions for an individual or groups of members of the Sub-Committee
- the Sub-Committee would become more strategic and less operational; it would not seek to debate the technical issues of a proposed activity; it would approve a particular initiative and any necessary financial allocation, then allow the authorised individual or group to undertake delivery; the Sub-Committee would be updated as to progress by the authorised individual or group representative at Sub-Committee meetings.

The Sub-Committee decided to support the views of the Chairman as to the manner in which the Sub-Committee should operate and agreed additionally that, to enable this process to operate effectively, future activities need to arise from specific development plans supported by knowledge as to the financial resources available and/or required (i.e. applications for grant aid and fees setting). Consequently, the agenda for the next meeting will include an item on project development and financial planning.

*(The Chairman agreed to this item of business being discussed as a matter of urgency to enable the matter to be considered at the earliest opportunity)*

**SC9/10 Next meeting**

Members decided that the next meeting of the Sub-Committee be held on 4 August 2010, commencing at 7.00 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

**Meeting finished at 9.10 pm.**

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

Date:.....