

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

5 MAY 2010 – 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Buckton, Chairman; Councillors Mrs Desborough and Emery plus Mrs B Carson (between 8.00 pm and 8.30 pm), Mr C Carson, Mr P Catling, Mr I Fost, Mr R Miller and Mrs P Smith.

Apologies: Councillor Cole and Mr M Hawes.

The minutes of the meeting of 18 March 2010 were confirmed and signed, subject to addition of the following wording to the second paragraph of minute SC 50/09 (2) “and that an experimental use of Dyofix is being undertaken by the Environment Agency at another pit within Cambridgeshire”. Members decided that the minutes be updated prior to publication on the Parish Council’s website.

SC54/09 Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

(1) Carp Syndicate – membership and fees income

Further to minute SC52/09, members were informed of the number of current members of the Carp Syndicate.

In addition, Mr Catling reported that the Carp Syndicate is happy with the level of 2010/11 membership fee set by the Parish Council at its last meeting. In this regard, Mr Fost expressed the view that prior to such fees being set by the Parish Council, the matter should be discussed by this Sub-Committee, which would make a recommendation to the Parish Council. Mr Catling stated that such an approach would be supported by the Carp Syndicate. The Chairman undertook to ensure that such an approach is operated in future years.

The Sub-Committee decided

- (1) to note that the membership of the Carp Syndicate has increased, since minute SC52/09, from 28 to 29 members; the income from this additional member and the new member reported at minute M52/09 (agreed at £30 per member for the period to 15 June), together with their names and contact details were presented to the Clerk by Mr Catling;
- (2) that, in future years, prior to Carp Syndicate fees being set by the Parish Council, the matter would be referred to this Sub-Committee, which would make a recommendation to the Parish Council.

SC55/09 Field adjoining Manea Pit – possible use as Community Orchard

Further to minute SC49/09, Mrs B Carson reported that an article had been published in Manea Matters, which had resulted in two suggestions/ideas for the initiative plus one offer of a donation of £15 for the purchase of a tree. One of the suggestions was that the community orchard be named Minett’s Wood.

In addition, Mrs Carson showed the Sub-Committee a number of drawings produced by the Brownies in terms of ideas for the community orchard, including a tree house.

Councillor Buckton stated that Mrs Carson and he had not yet arranged to meet with the Headteacher of the Community Primary School, with the aim of engaging children in the project.

Mrs Smith reported on her investigations into possible sources of grant aid; she circulated a schedule of the various sources of funding and the eligibility criteria for each one, together with details of her assessment as to whether or not the Parish Council would be able to meet the criteria in each case.

Mr Carson suggested that Mrs Smith also investigates the possibility of accessing funding via various "environmental" sources, including WREN, SITA and BIFFAWARD.

In addition, Mr Carson reported on his investigations as to whether there are any regulations restricting planting in close proximity to dykes. He informed the Sub-Committee that, given that the dykes adjoining the potential orchard site are not under the control of the Manea and Welney Internal Drainage Board, there are no specific regulations in this regard but common sense should be applied when undertaking planting to ensure that sufficient space exists to allow necessary site maintenance.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) Mrs Carson would assess the ideas suggested by the Brownies and develop a proposal to represent those ideas;
- (2) Mrs Smith would: investigate the sources of grant aid suggested by Mr Carson; make a pre-application submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund; make further contact with the Woodland Trust;
- (3) the Sub-Committee 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;
- (4) Councillor Buckton and Mrs Carson would arrange to discuss this initiative with the Headteacher at Manea Community Primary School, with the aim of engaging children in the project.

SC56/09 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 etc – Mr Miller reported that the works are almost complete. In addition, a number of other general issues, such as pond clearance, were discussed briefly.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the current progress situation be noted;
 - (2) a further work party be arranged for 8 May 2010, which will involve the Community Payback Team, with the aim of completing all outstanding works;
 - (3) other relevant matters, such as pond clearance, be discussed at future meetings.
- (2) Weed control – some members of the Sub-Committee sought to discuss further the appropriateness of using Dyofix as a means of weed control at Manea Pit but the Chairman reminded the Sub-Committee of the decisions reached previously regarding this matter and that the situation had not changed since that time.

The Sub-Committee decided that the situation be noted.

- (3) Water quality – Mrs P Smith reported an analysis of the results of the water sampling undertaken recently at Manea Pit. The general conclusion of the analysis is that the chemical water quality of the pit, at least during the winter months, is very good and that any algae problems in the pit are caused by the water quality.

The Sub-Committee decided that the information be noted.

- (4) Picnic area – some members of the Sub-Committee mentioned the need for tidying of the picnic area.

The Sub-Committee decided that the Chairman would enlist the services of the Street Pride Group to undertake the necessary works.

- (5) Wildlife Trust - Councillor Buckton reported that arrangements had been made for a representative of the Wildlife Trust to accompany him on a “walk around” of Manea Pit on 12 May 2010, with the aim of identifying how that organisation could work with the Parish Council in the future development of the facility, whilst preserving the site’s status as a County Wildlife Site.

SC57/09 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 but noted that the necessary works required to the tree with a dead branch were still to be undertaken.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the outstanding works to the tree be undertaken as part of the activities of the work party arranged for 8 May 2010 (minute SC56/09 (1) above refers);
- (2) there be a general review of the contents of the notice board to ensure that the information displayed is up-to-date, relevant and informative.

SC58/09 Various fishing issues

Mr Fost raised a number of issues relating to various aspects of fishing at Manea Pit. The issues included possible amendments to the fishing rules for Manea Pit (minutes SC24/09 and SC29/09 refer), the possibility of allowing night fishing for day ticket holders, purchase of additional fish (not Carp) and the printing of annual season tickets. In addition, he presented the Clerk with the sum of £120.00 from the sale of fishing tickets.

Members decided that

- (1) Mr Fost would produce a costed proposal for the purchase of additional fish (various relevant varieties but excluding Carp), for consideration at the next meeting;
- (2) night fishing for the holders of day tickets be not allowed because of the potential for conflict with the members of the Carp Syndicate;
- (3) the following wording be added to the annual season tickets: “This permit allows fishing from dawn until dusk. The member must leave at dusk and not return until dawn”;
- (4) Mr Fost would arrange the printing of day ticket receipt books and annual season tickets;
- (5) the fishing rules (agreed at minutes SC24/09 and SC29/09) be amended in the manner agreed and that a revised set of rules be displayed in the notice board.
- (6) Mr Fost’s contact details be added to the information in the notice board.

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

SC59/09 Next meeting

Members decided that the next meeting of the Sub-Committee be held on 24 June 2010, commencing at 7.00 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

Meeting finished at 9.30 pm.

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

Date:.....