

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

8 SEPTEMBER 2010 – 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Emery, in the Chair; Councillor Mrs Desborough plus Mr P Catling, Mr I Fost and Mrs P Smith.

Apologies: Councillors Archer, Buckton and Cole.

In attendance: Councillor Lockett, as an observer.

The minutes of the meeting of 4 August 2010 were confirmed and signed.

SC19/10 Appointment of Chairman for the meeting

Given the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Councillor Emery was appointed as Chairman for the meeting.

SC20/10 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.

SC21/10 Field adjoining Manea Pit – possible use as community orchard/woodland

Further to minute SC13/10, Mrs Smith reported on the current situation regarding the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

Mrs Smith informed the Sub-Committee that she had, so far, made contact with four of the five organisations/bodies which the Sub-Committee had agreed to invite to submit letters of support for the project and that, as a result, three letters had been received to date; the letters are from the RSPB, Manea Community Primary School and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership. She added that a letter of support is anticipated from the Wildlife Trust and that she will be contacting the Doctor's Surgery in this regard in the immediate future.

Mrs Smith stated that queries raised by the Heritage Lottery Fund had now been addressed/resolved. She estimated that she would need to spend a further three days of time to achieve completion of the application, following which she would forward to the Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

Councillor Emery reported that, further to minute M30/10, the works to construct a roadway, together with a limited amount of car parking (space for 4 or 5 cars), to the site had been completed.

The Sub-Committee decided that the current situation regarding the application for monies from the Heritage Lottery Fund be noted.

SC22/10 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects

The Sub-Committee decided that, given the level of progress that has been achieved, there are no specific issues requiring consideration at this time.

SC23/10 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 was informed that the Parish Council had agreed, at minute M48/10, that the Sub-Committee be authorised to purchase two life jackets, to be worn by any persons who are undertaking works in the immediate vicinity of Manea Pit, and to put in place operational arrangements in relation to user access to these life jackets.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) there are no new health and safety issues at this time;
- (2) Mrs Smith would identify a suitable supplier from which to purchase two life jackets;
- (3) The life jackets, when purchased, would be located at the address of Councillor Cole.

SC24/10 Fishing issues

Councillor Emery reported that Manea Parish Council had considered, at its last meeting, of an offer from the Environment Agency to provide, free-of-charge, 500 fish in October/November 2010 for the ponds at Manea Pit, subject to works being undertaken to link two of the ponds. The estimated cost of these works is £500, which could be found by utilising the sum agreed for the purchase of additional fish (minute M8/10 refers). The Parish Council had decided (at minute M48/10) that the works be to link two of the ponds be approved, subject to the Wildlife Trust being consulted upon the proposal and no objections being raised.

Councillor Emery informed the Sub-Committee that the Wildlife Trust (WT) had, however, raised objection to the linking of the first and second (of the three) ponds, as supported by the Parish Council, because of the consequent loss of vegetation. The WT has, however, stated that it has no objection to the linking of the second and third ponds, which have been cleared of plant life previously. Councillor Emery added that the Environment Agency is happy to provide fish for ponds two and three when linked. Under this arrangement, the measures discussed at minute SC7/10, to provide protection of the new fish from predators (at an estimated cost of £135.00), would not be required.

Councillor Emery reported that the Wildlife Trust has suggested the netting of certain areas at Manea Pit, which could be undertaken by a work party.

Mr Fost presented the Clerk with payments totalling £94.00 from the sale of fishing tickets.

Members were informed by Mr Catling that there had been no increase in the number of members of the Carp Syndicate for 2010/11 since the last meeting.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the necessary works to link the second and third ponds be arranged;
- (2) the offer of the Environment Agency to provide fish for the linked ponds be accepted;
- (3) the situation regarding fishing income and membership of the Carp Syndicate be noted;
- (4) a work party be arranged for 16 October 2010.

SC25/10 Communications/correspondence with the Wildlife Trust

Councillor Emery reported briefly on a letter that he had received from the Wildlife Trust in relation to Manea Pit. In summary, the letter details

- the Wildlife Trust's concerns in relation to the proposal to link two of the three ponds at Manea Pit (minute SC24/10 above refers);
- the need to develop a long-term management plan for Manea Pit, which integrates the angling and wildlife conservation activities;
- the implications of work undertaken and proposed in relation to the future of the site's County Wildlife Status;
- recommendations in respect of trees management;
- suggestions in respect of developments at Manea Pit which could mature into features worthy of future County Wildlife Site status, including the types of planting to be included within the proposed orchard/woodland.

The Sub-Committee considers that the Wildlife Trust should be given assurances that the Parish Council takes very seriously the opinions and advice of that agency and has the same ambitions as the Wildlife Trust for the development and preservation of Manea Pit; in addition, the Parish Council is committed to producing a long-term management plan in support of those ambitions and has a desire to work closely with the Wildlife Trust to ensure that the site is developed and maintained in a way which maximises its effectiveness as a wildlife habitat and conservation/ecological area.

At the suggestion of Mrs Smith, the Sub-Committee considered implementing a single point of contact between the Parish Council/Sub-Committee and the Wildlife Trust (WT), on the basis that a number of different members of the Sub-Committee had undertaken discussions with and sought advice from the WT; it was felt that such an arrangement is not in the best interests of an effective working relationship.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the information reported by Councillor Emery be noted;
- (2) the Parish Council be informed of the content of the letter from the Wildlife Trust;
- (3) a letter of response be drafted, by Mrs Smith on behalf of Councillor Emery, for consideration by the Parish Council;
- (4) the future single point of contact between the Parish Council/Sub-Committee and the Wildlife Trust be Councillor Emery.

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

SC26/10 Next meeting

Members decided that the next meeting of the Sub-Committee be held on 12 October 2010, commencing at 7.00 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

Meeting finished at 8.05 pm.

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

Date:.....