

# MANEA PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE

## MINUTES OF MEETING

9 FEBRUARY 2010 – 7.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Barnes, Chairman; Councillors Archer, Buckton, Cole and Emery plus Mr P Catling, Mr I Fost, Mr M Hawes, Mr R Miller and Mrs P Smith.

**Apologies:** Mr C Carson.

The minutes of the meeting of 12 January 2010 were confirmed and signed.

### **SC40/09 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.

### **SC41/09 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 – the Chairman reported on the matters identified during the on-site inspection by certain members of the Sub-Committee on 23 January 2010 (minute SC35/09 (1) refers), including the need for the following works:

- re-planting of an area to the south-west of the footpath
- pond clearance
- removal of an over-hanging branch from an Oak tree to the rear of the pavilion
- possibly providing a bridge across the ditch, to link the picnic area with the playing field
- creation of pond dipping facilities
- minor works to complete the works to the fishing platforms (including the provision of steps at certain locations)
- pollarding of certain Willow trees.

Other issues identified during the inspection are referred to at part (5) of minute SC41/09.

In addition, Councillor Barnes reported that there are fifteen nest boxes and two picnic benches available for locating around the Pit area.

Councillor Archer reported that the main focus of the work party on 6 February 2010, which took place in association with the Community Payback team, was on general tidying of areas around the Pit, pond clearance, the planting of bulbs and removal of some dead trees.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the current situation, including the outstanding works identified during the inspection, be noted;
- (2) a further work party be arranged (to supplement the work to be undertaken by the Community Payback team on that date) for 6 March 2010.

(2) Weed control – Councillor Emery reported the suggestion of some members of the Parish Council, at the last meeting, that barley straw should be tried as a potential means of weed control and the decision of the Parish Council that Dyofix would not be used for this purpose without the prior approval of the Parish Council.

Mr P Catling enquired as to whether it would be relevant to consider again the possibility of extracting the weed growth by mechanical means and suggested that the Sub-Committee may wish to re-consider the decision made a number of months ago not to seek consultancy advice on how best to address this matter.

Mrs Smith reported that she had sought the views of The Wildlife Trust on the suitability of Dyofix as a means of weed control at Manea Pit and is awaiting a response. The Chairman mentioned that Mr C Carson is currently attending an Aquatic Weed Control Conference and it is anticipated that his learning from that conference would be able to inform the Sub-Committee's future debate on this matter.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) it still does not consider the use of barley straw as the means of weed control at Manea Pit to be a viable option;
  - (2) The matter of weed control at Manea Pit be considered further in the light of the advice sought by Mrs Smith and the information that Mr Carson would obtain from his conference attendance.
- (3) Fish stocks – Mr Hawes reported that, subject to weather conditions being suitable, he anticipates the additional 25 to 30 Carp being added to the Pit either by the end of week commencing 15 February 2010 or sometime during the following week at the latest.

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

(4) Water quality – Mrs P Smith reported that she has undertaken the necessary action to commission the Environment Agency to undertake water sampling at Manea Pit during March 2010.

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

(5) Open spaces

a) Picnic area – Councillor Barnes reported that the works necessary for this area had been identified as part of the Manea Pit inspection undertaken on 23 January 2010 (minute SC35/09 (1) refers).

The Sub-Committee decided that the situation be noted.

b) Car park area - Councillor Barnes reported proposals for surfacing/landscaping of this area, as a result of the inspection undertaken on 23 January 2010 (minute SC35/09 (1) refers).

The Sub-Committee decided that the surfacing suggestions made by Councillor Barnes, which he undertook to arrange and fund, be approved.

c) Field adjoining Pit – the Chairman reported that, as a result of the meeting held on 14 January 2010, a woodland/orchard group has been established and that the group's preferred location for such a development is this area of land.

The Sub-Committee supported the suggestion of the Chairman that, given this situation, the members of the woodland/orchard group should be invited to attend the meetings of this Sub-Committee.

Councillor Emery expressed the view that any community orchard scheme should involve a mixture of species of tree, not solely fruit trees. In this regard, the Chairman made the point that the exact mix of planting could be influenced by the criteria for any grant funding that may be available for this project.

The Sub-Committee acknowledges the necessity to have regard for the views of the community on this initiative.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the information reported by the Chairman be noted;
- (2) the members of the woodland/orchard group be invited to attend meetings of this Sub-Committee;
- (3) Mrs Smith would produce an article for the next edition of the Manea Matters magazine, with the purposes of: seeking design ideas; obtaining community views on the proposal generally; offering the opportunity for local people to sponsor a tree.

### **SC42/09 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 is aware that the Parish Council possesses a policy of insurance to cover all liabilities in respect of Manea Pit.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) The necessary works be undertaken to the tree with a dead branch, as identified during the inspection on 23 January 2010;
- (2) All of the risks identified in the initial Risk Assessment (undertaken in 2007) have been addressed (minute SC22/09 (6) refers);
- (3) A “Deep Water” warning sign be placed on the notice board at the Pit;
- (4) The condition of the footpaths around the Pit be monitored continuously, to ensure that they are maintained as necessary to provide a safe walking surface.

### **SC43/09 Carp Syndicate – membership and fees income**

Further to minute SC31/09, members were informed of the number of current members of the Carp Syndicate.

The Sub-Committee decided to note that the membership of the Carp Syndicate has increased, since minute SC31/09, from 23 to 27 members and that the total income from Carp Syndicate membership has, consequently, increased by £240.00 (i.e. the four additional members each paying £60.00).

*(The Chairman agreed to this item of business being discussed as a matter of urgency to enable the Sub-Committee to be kept up-to-date on the matter)*

### **SC44/09 Manea Pit - contact details**

The Chairman reported the need to update the contact details in respect of Manea Pit in the Environment Agency’s “Where to go fishing” booklet.

The Sub-Committee decided that Mr Fost's contact details be provided to the Environment Agency for that purpose.

*(The Chairman agreed to this item of business being discussed as a matter of urgency to enable the document to be updated as soon as possible)*

**SC45/09 Manea Pit – fishing match**

Mr Fost reported a request from a group of 12 anglers to hold a fishing match at Manea Pit on 12 August 2010.

The Sub-Committee decided that the request be approved.

*(The Chairman agreed to this item of business being discussed as a matter of urgency to avoid undue delay to determination of the request)*

**SC46/09 Next meeting**

Members decided that the next meeting of the Sub-Committee be held on 18 March 2010, commencing at 7.00 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

**Meeting finished at 8.30 pm.**

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

Date:.....