

# MANEA PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE

## MINUTES OF MEETING

24 AUGUST 2011 – 7.30 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Archer, Chairman; Councillors Mrs Desborough and Emery plus Mr C Carson, Mr P Catling, Mr I Fost, Mr R K Miller and Mrs P Smith. Councillor Woodard attended as an observer.

**Apologies:** Councillors Cole and Lockett plus Mrs B Carson.

The minutes of the meeting of 28 July 2011 were confirmed and signed.

### SC24/11 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.

### SC25/11 Field adjoining Manea Pit – use as community orchard/woodland

Further to minute SC14/11, Mrs Smith referred to the e-mail that she had sent to the Chairman for reporting to the last meeting and sought an assurance that the content of the e-mail had been reported to and considered by the Sub-Committee. Both the Chairman and the Clerk confirmed that to be the case.

Mrs Smith reiterated the concerns expressed in that e-mail in relation to the re-seeding works which had been carried out and some of the decision-making relating to technical aspects of this project. She sought clarification as to her role as project manager in the light of some of the decision-making which had taken place without her involvement.

Councillor Emery explained, again (detailed at minute SC4/11), how the decision had been reached regarding the re-seeding works which had been undertaken.

With regard to progress on the project, Mrs Smith informed the Sub-Committee that there has been no change since minute SC4/11, except for the fact that there had been no consultation on the proposed scheme layout via Manea Gala.

The Clerk suggested that the Shape Your Place (SYP) community website could be used as one means of publicising both this project and the pit area in general and he offered to make the necessary contact with the administrators of the website. Councillors Archer and Emery and Mrs Smith indicated that they would be happy to be interviewed for a blog on the SYP website.

Councillor Archer made the point that he had not yet forwarded to Mrs Smith the details of the trees which the Woodland Trust is able to make available. The Sub-Committee is of the opinion that some of the trees could be suitable for planting of the recently-filled small pool area at Manea Pit (minute SC15/11 refers).

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the current progress situation be noted;
- (2) in future, there would be no decision-making outside of Sub-Committee meetings;

- (3) Mrs Smith would facilitate consultation on the scheme through display of copies of the large-scale design plan at various places within the village;
- (4) the Clerk would seek to arrange for publicity to be provided via the Shape Your Place website.

#### **SC26/11 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects**

The Sub-Committee discussed briefly the works still necessary to deliver the current management plan.

Further to minute SC15/11, Councillor Archer reported that the works to "top up" the chippings on the footpaths are still outstanding but he would be engaging with the Community Payback Team in that regard.

The Sub-Committee is aware that various routine maintenance works need to be carried out and consider that these should be identified specifically through an inspection of the site. The Sub-Committee is mindful that some works may be needed to ensure that the fishing platforms provided for use by persons with a disability comply with the relevant guidelines.

The Sub-Committee is aware that the proposal to provide a pond-dipping area at Manea Pit has not yet been actioned.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the current situation regarding the maintenance of the pit area be noted;
- (2) Councillor Archer would continue to engage with the Community Payback Team regarding "topping up" the chippings where necessary;
- (3) an inspection of the pit area be undertaken by certain members of the Sub-Committee, on 4 September 2011, to both assess the maintenance works required and works which may be needed to ensure that the fishing platforms provided for use by persons with a disability comply with the relevant guidelines;
- (4) dates for future work parties, to undertake the maintenance works identified through the inspection, be fixed at the next Sub-Committee meeting;
- (5) a decision be reached at the next meeting as to the most appropriate location at Manea Pit for the proposed pond-dipping area.

#### **SC27/11 Manea Pit – Revision of the management plan**

Further to minute SC16/11, Mrs Smith reported that the situation is unchanged from that reported at minute SC6/11.

The Sub-Committee decided that the current position regarding the development of a new management plan be noted.

#### **SC28/11 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 decided that there are no new health and safety issues at this time.

## SC29/11 Fishing and other pit users' issues

Mr Fost presented to the Clerk the sum of £170.00 resulting from the sale of fishing tickets. The Clerk informed the Sub-Committee that this income brings the total fishing income received in the 2011/12 financial year to approximately £3,300.00; expenditure in the same period is approximately £300.00.

Mr Catling informed the Sub-Committee that a Carp weighing 35 lbs, which is a record weight for Manea Pit, was caught yesterday.

Further to minute SC18/11, Mr Carson reported on the results of his investigations into suitable means of mechanical extraction of lilies from the pit. Firstly, he made the point that the Middle Level Commissioners do not undertake contract work outside of their own waterways. Secondly, he informed the Sub-Committee that the likely cost of engaging contractors to undertake this work would be between £1,000 and £2,500.

Mr Carson had, therefore, investigated types of equipment which could be purchased by the Parish Council, to be used by members of the Sub-Committee to undertake the cutting of lilies. He explained to Sub-Committee members his findings, showing photographs of the equipment and providing details of the associated costs.

Councillor Emery reported that Manea Parish Council had supported (at minute M53/11) the comment he made at the last Sub-Committee meeting that anglers must respect the fact that the pit area is available to all members of the community and there is a need for all users, which, in the main are anglers and dog walkers, to co-exist in a harmonious manner.

Councillor Emery informed the Sub-Committee that three "dogs must be kept on leads" signs had been purchased and installed at the agreed locations around the pit area and that it had been agreed at the meeting of Manea Parish Council on 15 August 2011 (minute M53/11 refers) that a fourth sign be purchased and located at the access point to the pit area from the playing field.

The Parish Council had agreed that Councillor Buckton would arrange for an article to appear in the Manea Matters publication, to remind the community of both the fact that dogs must be kept on leads when being walked around the pit area and the need to be a responsible dog owner in relation to addressing dog fouling.

Mr Catling circulated a copy of a draft letter of apology from the Carp Syndicate to dog owners, to be placed in the notice board at Manea Pit, which the Sub-Committee agreed without alteration.

Mr Fost reported that a number of dog owners are refusing to keep their dogs on leads when walking around the pit area and are allowing them to foul. He suggested that the way to address this issue, which creates both health (because of dog fouling) and safety (because of dogs running loose) problems would be for the Parish Council to implement a "No Dogs" ruling for the pit area, as is the case for the playing field. He informed the Sub-Committee of the amount of dog excrement that he and others are removing from the area.

Mr Fost read to the Sub-Committee a notice that he had prepared, on the basis of substantiating a No Dogs ruling being implemented at Manea Pit, explaining the health implications of allowing dogs to foul in public areas and the need for responsible dog ownership generally.

Councillor Archer read to the Sub-Committee information contained on Fenland District Council's website regarding the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act.

The Sub-Committee decided

- (1) that the situation with regard to the provision of signage, publicity and the apology letter from the Carp Syndicate be noted;

- (2) a weed cutter, at a cost of £103, be purchased for the purpose of cutting the lilies at Manea Pit;
- (3) not to implement, at this time, a No Dogs ruling around Manea Pit but to monitor the situation to see if the new signage and publicity measures result in an improved situation;
- (4) a revised version (to delete reference to a No Dogs ruling) of the notice produced by Mr Fost be placed in the notice board at Manea Pit.

**SC30/11 Management of trees at Manea Pit**

Further to minute SC19/11, Mr Fost reported that, due to continuing workload issues, the contractor had still not submitted a quotation for works to trees at the picnic area.

The Sub-Committee decided that the information reported be noted and that Mr Fost would pursue this matter, with the aim of a quotation being presented to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

**SC31/11 Monitoring of actions**

Further to minute SC20/11, Councillor Archer circulated an updated schedule of actions.

The document circulated had been produced in a revised layout, which the Sub-Committee endorsed as the appropriate method of presenting this information to meetings.

The Sub-Committee considered the actions listed in the document and agreed which ones had been completed and which ones needed to remain as outstanding.

The Sub-Committee decided that the revised layout of the actions document be agreed and that Councillor Archer would present an up-to-date version (i.e. with completed actions deleted and new actions added) to each meeting of the Sub-Committee.

**SC32/11 Website information**

Further to minute SC21/11, Councillor Archer reported that no progress had been made since the last meeting but suggested that Mrs Smith and he should work jointly to provide some "introductory" text for the new website page prior to the next meeting.

The Sub-Committee decided that the current situation be noted and that the approach suggested by Councillor Archer be approved.

**SC33/11 Next meeting**

The Sub-Committee was reminded that the next meeting has been scheduled for 28 September 2011, commencing at 7.30 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

**Meeting finished at 9.05 pm.**

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

Date:.....