

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

24 NOVEMBER 2011 – 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Emery, Vice-Chairman in the Chair; Councillors Mrs Desborough and Lockett plus Mr P Catling, Mr I Fost, Mr R K Miller and Mrs P Smith.

Apologies: Councillors Archer and Cole plus Mrs B Carson and Mr C Carson.

The minutes of the meeting of 27 October 2011 were confirmed and signed.

SC56/11 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.

SC57/11 Field adjoining Manea Pit – use as community orchard/woodland

Further to minute SC47/11, Mrs Smith reported to the Sub-Committee on the three quotations that she had received for the provision of hedging, plants and associated items for this project; she circulated a document which gave a breakdown of each of the quotations, which range from £1,091.25 to £1,277.25. The budget allocation for this element of the project is £1,200.00.

With regard to the time scale for planting works, Mrs Smith now proposes that the first work party takes place on the second (instead of first) weekend in December. She undertook to now advertise the dates of the work parties.

The Clerk reported an e-mail from Mr Carson, in which he clarifies the requirements for installation of the owl box and provides details of two Natural England licensed barn owl surveyors who would be likely to undertake, in a voluntary capacity, periodic surveying and cleaning out of this box.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the current progress situation be noted;
- (2) the quotation submitted by Manea School of Gardening, in the sum of £1,091.25, the lowest received, be accepted;
- (3) the information provided by Mr Carson be noted.

SC58/11 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 SC48/11, Councillor Emery reported that, following an inspection of the area (by Councillor Cole, Mr Fost and Mr Miller) that he had engaged a local contractor to undertake the dredging work to a section of the pit. He informed the Sub-Committee of the likely cost of the work and why the decision had been taken to engage a contractor and to carry out the work within a short timescale. In addition, he reported that this matter had been reported to the last meeting of Manea Parish Council and had attracted criticism from one councillor (minute M96/11 refers).

With regard to maintenance works to the footpaths at the pit, Councillor Emery reported that Councillor Cole would be collecting a supply of wood chippings and that Councillor Archer would then arrange for the chippings to be laid by the Community Payback Team.

Further to minute SC37/11, Mr Catling reported on his investigations into chemical means of both reducing silt and improving water quality at the pit. He explained a product produced by a particular company that he had identified during his research.

The Sub-Committee discussed also the use of mechanical dredging of some specific areas within the pit.

Further to minute SC48/11, the Clerk reported the response from the Wildlife Trust (WT) in relation to his invitation for representatives of the organisation to visit the pit area. The officer from the WT has stated that, due to current work commitments, it is not possible to visit the site in the near future; the officer suggests that the Wildlife Trust be sent a copy of the new management plan when completed, with a view to visiting the site thereafter (see minute SC59/11 below).

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the current situation regarding maintenance of the pit area be noted;
- (2) the action taken by Councillor Emery in relation to the dredging works be endorsed;
- (3) Mr Catling would obtain further information from the company identified in relation to its chemical means of silt reduction;
- (4) Mrs Smith would seek to obtain from the Environment Agency a quotation for undertaking the mechanical dredging works discussed;
- (5) the response from the Wildlife Trust be noted.

SC59/11 Manea Pit – Revision of the management plan

Further to minute SC49/11 Mrs Smith reported on a document that she had produced, which sets out the current Vision and Objectives for Manea Pit (contained in the Strategic Plan and the Summary Management Plan 2008), the important aspects of the pit (including the fact that it has County Wildlife Site status) and her initial thoughts on new objectives for the pit area.

The new management plan will need to set out the objectives for the pit area and detail the actions (and associated resources) that will be required to achieve those objectives.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the current position regarding the development of a new management plan be noted;
- (2) a copy of the document produced by Mrs Smith be circulated, in advance of the next meeting, to all members of the Sub-Committee, for their consideration;
- (3) the document be the subject of further discussion at the next meeting;
- (4) following approval by the Sub-Committee, a copy of the document be forwarded to the Wildlife Trust for comment.

SC60/11 Manea Pit – Health and Safety

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

The Clerk reported an e-mail from Councillor Buckton, informing the Sub-Committee of an offer from the Health and Safety Manager at the Wildlife Trust to undertake an inspection of the pond dipping area and to give advice on addressing any related health and safety issues.

The Sub-Committee decided that the offer of an inspection of the pond dipping area at Manea Pit by the Health and Safety Manager at the Wildlife Trust be accepted.

SC61/11 Fishing and other pit users' issues

Further to minute SC51/11, Mr Fost reported that the additional fish, costing £550.00 plus VAT, are now resident in Manea Pit. He informed the Sub-Committee of the numbers and types of each fish.

Mr Fost presented the Clerk with income from the sale of fishing tickets, in the sum of £15.00.

Councillor Emery reported to the Sub-Committee on alleged incidents of a member of the public shooting wildlife at the pit area and notices that had been displayed in that area, by an unknown person, naming the "offender". This matter had been discussed by the Parish Council at its last meeting (minute M96/11 refers) and it was agreed that it should be drawn to the attention of this Sub-Committee. The alleged "offender" is a member of the Carp Syndicate; members of the Sub-Committee consider that if the allegations are proven, this person's membership of the Carp Syndicate should be reviewed.

Further to minute SC29/11, Mr Fost informed the Sub-Committee that a weed cutter had come into his possession recently; it would, therefore, not now be necessary for one to be purchased.

Members of the Sub-Committee are not aware of any recent incidents of conflict between dog walkers and anglers at Manea Pit.

Members decided that the information reported be noted.

SC62/11 Management of trees at Manea Pit

Further to minute SC41/11, Mr Fost reported a quotation received for pollarding works to three trees at the picnic area plus two others at the pit.

The Sub-Committee is aware of the desire of the Parish Council to make the pit area self-financing, i.e. the income from fishing fees meeting the costs of maintaining and developing the pit area, but is conscious of the need to keep the area in a safe condition for users. It is not likely that, given the level of income and expenditure in relation to the pit during this financial year to date, there will be sufficient financial resource available in this financial year to undertake the trees works required. In addition, the Sub-Committee considers that the funding of works to address health and safety issues should not necessarily need to be met from pit income.

The Sub-Committee decided

(1) that the information provided by Mr Fost be noted;

(2) to RECOMMEND to Manea Parish Council that funding be made available to meet the cost of undertaking the necessary tree works at the pit area; the minimum work required is to the trees at the picnic area but there are "economies of scale" in undertaking all such works as one contract.

SC63/11 Monitoring of actions

Given the absence from the meeting of Councillor Archer, no document was circulated.

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

SC64/11 Website information

Given the absence from the meeting of Councillor Archer, the Sub-Committee was unable to be updated on the progress of this matter.

The Sub-Committee decided that Councillor Archer would provide an update at the next meeting.

SC65/11 Next meeting

The Sub-Committee decided that the next meeting of the Sub-Committee be held on 4 January 2012, commencing at 7.30 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

Meeting finished at 8.50 pm.

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

Date.....