

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

26 JANUARY 2011 – 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Archer, Chairman; Councillors Mrs Desborough and Emery plus C Carson, Mr P Catling, Mr I Fost, Mr RK Miller and Mrs P Smith.

Apologies: Councillor Cole.

The minutes of the meeting of 9 November 2010 were confirmed and signed.

SC42/10 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.

SC43/10 Field adjoining Manea Pit – possible use as community orchard/woodland

Further to minute SC37/10, Mrs Smith reported on the current situation regarding the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

Mrs Smith informed the Sub-Committee that the application, for the sum of £7,700.00, had been successful. She gave a breakdown of the various elements of the scheme covered by the grant; this includes the purchase of trees, the provision of information boards, professional fees etc.

The Sub-Committee discussed generally some of the operational aspects of this project, including the appropriate time of the year for various planting activities. It was concluded that although the autumn of 2011 would be the most appropriate time for tree planting, grass sowing could be undertaken during the spring.

Councillor Archer read to the Sub-Committee a statement which had been presented by Councillor Risbridger to the Parish Council meeting of 17 January 2011. The Parish Council had decided that the statement be referred to the Sub-Committee for consideration (minute M109/10 refers).

In his statement, Councillor Risbridger expresses his concerns regarding the loss of the "bird feeding station" on the land at the eastern end of Manea Pit and, consequently, proposed that the Parish Council:

- re-plants this area with tall grasses and herbs and that the land be allowed to flourish throughout the summer months to become once again a winter "bird feeding station";
- plants carefully selected trees in individual small clearings within the tall grasses to allow both trees and grasses to flourish.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the success of the application for monies from the Heritage Lottery Fund be noted;
- (2) Councillor Risbridger's proposals to ensure adequate provision for "bird feeding stations" be taken into account in the design of the community orchard/woodland scheme;

- (3) the community be consulted, via the Community-led Planning meeting scheduled for 23 February 2011, on possible design proposals for the scheme;
- (4) Mrs Smith would produce a draft scheme, for consideration at the next meeting of the Sub-Committee, following the community consultation (see (3) above);
- (5) it wished to place on record its appreciation of the work undertaken by Mrs Smith in relation to the application for grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

SC44/10 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects

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

Mr Miller made the point that the netting works agreed at minute SC24/10 are still outstanding and that some tree cutting works are required.

Councillor Archer informed the Sub-Committee that the Community Payback Team is still undertaking maintenance works at Manea Pit on a regular basis; this includes such activities as topping-up the chippings on the pathways.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) a work party be arranged, on a date to be agreed between the participants, for undertaking the netting works agreed at minute SC24/10 and other minor maintenance and improvement works deemed necessary;
- (2) the contribution being made by the Community Payback Team to the ongoing maintenance of the Pit area be noted.

SC45/10 Manea Pit – Revision of the management plan

Further to minute SC38/10, Mrs Smith reported on her work on developing a new management plan for Manea Pit. She informed the Sub-Committee that little progress has been made because she is still awaiting information from the Wildlife Trust, not only in terms of the justification for Manea Pit's designation as a County Wildlife Site (minute SC38/10 refers) but also examples of management plans which have been implemented elsewhere.

Members decided that the current position regarding the development of a new management plan be noted and that Councillor Emery, as the Parish Council's designated single point of contact with the Wildlife Trust would pursue that organisation for the information that it had agreed to provide.

SC46/10 Manea Pit – Manea Matters article on Manea Pit

Mrs Smith raised the issue of an article that had appeared in the latest edition of the Manea Matters publication and enquired as to whether any members of the Sub-Committee or the Parish Council had been given the opportunity to have input into the article. She circulated a copy of the article to Sub-Committee members.

Councillor Emery stated that although there had been no input into this article by the Sub-Committee or Manea Parish Council (MPC), MPC decided at its last meeting (minute M112/10 refers) that it would be purchasing editorial space (the inside back cover) on a regular basis in the Manea Matters publication, commencing with the next edition, as a means of publicising Parish Council matters. The issues that will feature in the Parish Council section include the ambitions and achievements of the Sub-Committee.

Councillor Emery reported that Councillor Buckton had been tasked by the Parish Council with producing the first article.

The Sub-Committee decided that the situation be noted and that it would support the Parish Council in the promotion/publicity of activities and developments in relation to Manea Pit.

SC47/10 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 decided that there are no new health and safety issues at this time.

SC48/10 Fishing issues

Further to minute SC17/10, the Clerk circulated a report on the financial position in relation to Manea Pit. This report detailed the funding brought forward from the financial year 2009/10 and the income and expenditure in 2010/11 as at 25 January 2011. The information shows that there is likely to be an overspending on this budget of around £600.00 at the end of the current financial year. This does not take account of the cost of purchasing feed for the new fish (estimated at £150.00 for a full year).

Further to minute SC32/10, the Sub-Committee considered, again, the content of the notice board at Manea Pit and reiterated its previous comments that the board's content needs to be relevant, informative and up-to-date.

Mr Fost informed the Sub-Committee of an application for a fishing match on 17 April 2011. He detailed the likely number of participants and the consequent level of income that would be generated.

Mrs Smith made the point that one of the actions included within the grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) - to help meet the key objectives set by the HLF - is the arrangement of a "Try Fishing Day" at Manea Pit.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the financial information provided by the Clerk be noted and taken into account in the setting of fees for Carp Syndicate membership and fishing tickets;
- (2) the setting of fees for Carp Syndicate membership and fishing tickets for the 2011/12 season be discussed at the next meeting of the Sub-Committee;
- (3) the content of the notice board at Manea Pit be reviewed, by Mr Fost, to ensure that it is relevant, informative and up-to-date;
- (4) the application for a fishing match on 17 April 2011 be approved;
- (5) an application would be made to the Environment Agency, by Councillor Emery or Mr Fost, for further additional fish for the pools.
- (6) a "Try Fishing Day" be arranged for a suitable date in August 2011.

SC49/10 Fly-tipping at Manea Pit

Some members of the Sub-Committee mentioned a recent incident of fly-tipping, involving the duping of waste oil, at Manea Pit and suggested that warning notices should be erected.

Councillor Emery reported that this matter had been considered at the last meeting of the Parish Council (minute M109/10 refers) and the decision reached was that a contact telephone number for the reporting of dumping incidents be included in the notice board at Manea Pit; Parish Council members indicated that they may wish to re-visit this decision if further such incidents occur; in addition, the members of the Parish Council are keen to keep to a minimum the number of advisory/warning signs around the Pit area.

SC50/10 Next meeting

Members decided that the next meeting of the Sub-Committee be held on 2 March 2011, commencing at 7.30 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

Meeting finished at 9.00 pm.

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

Date:.....