

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

27 OCTOBER 2011 – 7.30 pm.

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

Apologies: Councillors Archer and Lockett plus Mrs B Carson.

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

SC45/11 Membership of the Sub-Committee

Mr I Fost, who had decided to return membership of the Sub-Committee, was welcomed back by other Sub-Committee members.

SC46/11 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.

SC47/11 Field adjoining Manea Pit – use as community orchard/woodland

Further to minute SC36/11, Mrs Smith mentioned the possibility of re-seeding the meadow area. She informed the Sub-Committee that she and Mr Miller had met on site and examined the feasibility of such action. Mrs Smith sought the Sub-Committee's agreement to undertaking weed killing and re-seeding following cutting of the grass. She advised that advice is being sought as to the most appropriate grasses for this project.

With regard to the time scale for planting works, Mrs Smith suggested that the ground conditions are likely to be too dry until December 2011. On that basis, she proposes organising three work parties (involving school pupils, the Brownies and the general community) to take place on the first weekend in December, the period between Christmas and the New Year and one weekend in January 2012.

Mrs Smith informed the Sub-Committee that she is currently awaiting quotations for the cost of plants and hedging, which she thinks will be of the order of £1,500.00. The Sub-Committee considers that the quotation accepted should be the one which provides the best value in terms of quality and price (not necessarily the lowest cost).

Mr Carson informed the Sub-Committee that the owl box had been purchased (at a cost of £45.00) and that Mr Miller and Mrs Smith had agreed a location; it is now necessary to obtain a pole (of sufficient length to enable the box to be at a height of around twelve feet above ground level).

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the current progress situation be noted;
- (2) Mrs Smith be authorised to purchase cans of spray paint, for marking the areas to be planted, and seed (at an estimated cost of £120.00);

- (3) acceptance of a quotation for the cost of the hedging be delegated to the Chairman and Vic-Chairman of the Sub-Committee;
- (4) Councillor Cole would arrange the acquisition of a pole upon which to mount the owl box.

SC48/11 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 SC37/11, Mr Carson reported on his investigations in relation to undertaking dredging works at the pit. He informed the Sub-Committee that he had identified a local person who would be happy to undertake the works but there are operational matters which would need to be resolved in that regard. The Sub-Committee discussed these matters and a variety of suggestions were made. It was felt that it may be possible to use the Community Payback Team to undertake some of this work.

It was felt that, before arrangements for the dredging works could be finalised, an on-site examination of the operational issues is needed; Councillor Cole and Mr Miller offered to carry out this examination.

Maintenance works are still required to footpaths and some of the fishing platforms and the purchase of wood chippings and telegraph poles are necessary to undertake these works.

The Clerk reported that Councillor Archer had arranged for the Community Payback Team (CPT) to work in Manea on 5 November 2011 and his suggestion that a work party could be linked to the work of the CPT.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the current situation regarding maintenance of the pit area be noted;
- (2) a work party be arranged for 5 November 2011;
- (3) to enable maintenance works to be undertaken at Manea Pit, Councillors Cole and Emery would seek to acquire telegraph poles and wood chippings respectively;
- (4) representatives of the Wildlife Trust be invited to visit the pit area, to both witness the improvement works undertaken and to gain an understanding of the proposals for further development of the area.

SC49/11 Manea Pit – Revision of the management plan

Mrs Smith reported that the situation had not changed since that reported at the last meeting (minute SC38/11 refers).

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

SC50/11 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.

SC51/11 Fishing and other pit users' issues

The Sub-Committee heard from a local resident regarding the continued conflict between dog walkers and anglers. In addition, the Clerk read to the Sub-Committee a letter from another resident in relation to an incident of conflict between two dog walkers; one who had her dog on a lead and the other who did not.

Councillor Emery informed the Sub-Committee that, in an attempt to address the conflict issues, Councillor Archer is seeking to arrange a meeting involving dog walkers, anglers and the Police.

Mr Fost presented the Clerk with income from the sale of fishing tickets, in the total sum of £331.50.

Mr Miller mentioned a recent incident of youngsters playing at the pit area, which had caused disturbance to anglers. The Sub-Committee noted the information reported by Mr Miller but concluded that, as the pit area is a facility to be used and enjoyed by all members of the community, no action could be taken to prevent such disturbance to anglers in the future. In addition, the Sub-Committee was of the opinion that, given that the days would soon be both shorter and colder, the likelihood of similar incidents in the near future would be low.

Further to minute SC40/11, Mr Fost informed the Sub-Committee that he had decided to re-commence his role as bailiff. Consequently, it would no longer be necessary for the Parish Council to accept the offer of Mr Shadbolt to carry out this role in place of Mr Fost.

Some members of the Sub-Committee enquired as to the possibility of acquiring additional fish for Manea Pit, to maintain fish stocks a level that will continue to attract anglers.

Councillor Emery reminded the Sub-Committee that the Environment Agency had stated in March 2011 (minute SC56/10 refers) that it would be happy to provide further fish for Manea Pit once it had delivered against the requests of other fisheries. He undertook to contact the Environment Agency, to enquire as to whether it would be able to provide some fish on a free-of-charge basis, as it had done previously (minute SC40/10 refers).

In addition, the Sub-Committee considered allocating a sum of £500.00 for the purchase of additional fish.

Members decided that

- (1) the income from the sale of fishing tickets be noted;
- (2) a sum of £500.00 be allocated for the purchase of additional fish;
- (3) Councillor Emery would contact the Environment Agency, to enquire as to whether it would be able to provide some fish on a free-of-charge basis, as it had done previously;
- (4) Incidents of conflict between users of the pit area be monitored.

SC52/11 Management of trees at Manea Pit

Further to minute SC41/11, Mr Fost reported that arrangements had been made for the contractor to visit the site during the forthcoming weekend, for the purpose of producing a quotation for undertaking the necessary works to the willow trees. Both Mr Fost and Mr Miller will meet the contractor on site to explain the nature and extent of the works required.

The Sub-Committee decided that the information provided by Mr Fost be noted.

SC53/11 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.

SC54/11 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.

SC55/11 Next meeting

The Sub-Committee decided that the next meeting of the Sub-Committee be held on 24 November 2011, commencing at 7.30 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

Meeting finished at 8.40 pm.

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

Date.....