

# MANEA PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE

## MINUTES OF MEETING

28 SEPTEMBER 2011 – 7.30 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Emery, Vice-Chairman in the Chair; Councillor Mrs Desborough plus Mr C Carson (until 8.10 pm), Mr P Catling, Mr R K Miller and Mrs P Smith.

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

The minutes of the meeting of 24 August 2011 were confirmed and signed.

### SC34/11 Membership of the Sub-Committee

Councillor Emery reported that Mr I Fost had resigned his membership of the Sub-Committee. He informed the Sub-Committee that this resignation had been reported to the last meeting of Manea Parish Council (at minute M67/11) and, consequently, the Parish Council had asked the Clerk to write to Mr Fost expressing its appreciation of the significant contribution that he had made to the operation and development of Manea Pit during his time as a member of the Sub-Committee.

Mr Miller expressed the view that Mr Fost's decision could have been made "in the heat of the moment" and that it may be possible to persuade Mr Fost to re-consider his decision; Mr Miller offered to speak with Mr Fost regarding this matter.

The Sub-Committee decided that the situation be noted and that the offer of Mr Miller, to contact Mr Fost, be accepted.

### SC35/11 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.

### SC36/11 Field adjoining Manea Pit – use as community orchard/woodland

Further to minute SC25/11, Mrs Smith reported her receipt of a notification from the East of England Apples and Orchard Project that the trees sought by the Sub-Committee had been reserved. She will now send a formal order for the trees.

Mrs Smith recommended that, because of the dry ground conditions, tree planting should not begin until November and she informed the Sub-Committee that approximately 30 members of the community had expressed an interest in participating in the planting works. She added that she had been collecting wild flowers for planting in the woodland and also suggested that some of the wild flowers growing around the pit could be spread in the woodland area.

The Sub-Committee discussed possible measures to prevent unauthorised access to the field but concluded that no action is necessary at this time.

Councillor Emery informed the Sub-Committee that he had arranged for the field to be sprayed, to address the weed growth, following which the grass would be cut.

The Sub-Committee discussed the provision of an owl box as part of this project.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the current progress situation be noted;
- (2) a formal order be placed, by Mrs Smith, with the East of England Apples and Orchard Project for the trees which had been reserved;
- (3) with regard to the provision of an owl box: Mr Carson would arrange the acquisition of an owl box; Councillor Emery would discuss with Councillor Cole the provision of a pole (upon which to mount the box); Mrs Smith and Mr Miller would jointly identify a suitable location;
- (4) the provision of possible measures to prevent unauthorised access to the field be considered, if deemed necessary, at a future meeting.

### **SC37/11 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects**

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

Councillor Emery reported briefly on the routine maintenance works that had been identified during the inspection on 4 September 2011; there is a need to clear Canadian Pond Weed from certain areas within the pit and to undertake repair works to some of the fishing platforms.

During the inspection, a potential location for a pond dipping area had been identified. Councillor Emery informed the Sub-Committee of the location and sought its agreement.

Mr Miller mentioned that he had acquired some information in relation to an organic means of both reducing silt and improving water quality at the pit; Mr Catling undertook to investigate the matter further.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the current situation regarding maintenance of the pit area be noted;
- (2) dates for future work parties, to undertake the maintenance works identified through the inspection, be fixed at the next Sub-Committee meeting;
- (3) the suggested location at Manea Pit for the proposed pond-dipping area be approved;
- (4) it would discuss, at the next meeting, the provision of a crossing point at the south-eastern corner of the pit.

### **SC38/11 Manea Pit – Revision of the management plan**

Further to minute SC27/11, Mrs Smith showed the Sub-Committee the plan, produced by Margaret Williams using a Computer Aided Design (CAD) system, of the total area to be covered by the new management plan. She explained that the CAD system allows the plan (which has been produced by "collating" the previous plans of the pit and associated areas) to be overlaid with various pieces of information, so that it can be used for a variety of purposes.

Further to minute M6/11, Mrs Smith informed the Sub-Committee that a representative of Honeysome Aquatics had, at her instigation, visited Manea Pit. The company's representative has identified the various species of plant in the pit. She suggested that she now writes to the Wildlife Trust regarding the possibility of adding further plants, which Honeysome Aquatics is able to provide, to the pit; the most appropriate time for adding further plants would be May 2012.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the current position regarding the development of a new management plan be noted;
- (2) Mrs Smith would seek the views of the Wildlife Trust regarding the addition of further plants to Manea Pit.

#### **SC39/11 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.

#### **SC40/11 Fishing and other pit users' issues**

The Sub-Committee discussed the need, given that Mr Fost is no longer providing this service, to identify at least one new bailiff for Manea Pit. It was noted that Mr R Shadbolt had offered to take on this activity.

The Sub-Committee decided the offer of Mr Shadbolt to become a bailiff at Manea Pit be accepted and that Mr Miller would collect from Mr Fost any receipt books, fishing tickets still in his possession.

#### **SC41/11 Management of trees at Manea Pit**

Given the absence from the meeting of Mr I Fost, the Sub-Committee received no update on the situation regarding a quotation for works to trees at the picnic area.

The Sub-Committee decided that Mr Miller would seek to obtain from Mr Fost the necessary information, to be reported to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

#### **SC42/11 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.

#### **SC43/11 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.

#### **SC44/11 Next meeting**

The Sub-Committee decided that the next meeting of the Sub-Committee be held on 27 October 2011, commencing at 7.30 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

**Meeting finished at 8.55 pm.**

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