

# MANEA PIT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

## MINUTES OF MEETING

11 OCTOBER 2012 – 7.30 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Archer, Chairman; Councillors Mrs Desborough and Emery plus Mr C Carson and Mr A Fielding,

**Apologies:** Councillor Cole, Mr I Fost, Miss N Froggatt and Mrs P Smith.

The minutes of the meeting of 12 September 2012 were confirmed and signed.

### **PMC23/12 Field adjoining Manea Pit – use as community orchard/woodland**

Further to minute PMC14/12, Mr Fielding informed the committee that he had undertaken the soil rotavation works agreed and that the area of land is now ready for the planting of new grass seed.

The Chairman reported an offer from the Manea Connect Committee to purchase a bench for installation (at a site deemed appropriate by the management committee) within the community orchard/woodland. The committee feels that it would be more appropriate - because of the longevity of the material and to remove the need for future maintenance of more traditional materials - to install a bench constructed from recycled plastic. It is acknowledged that the initial purchase price would probably exceed that of a bench made from traditional materials but there would be longer-term savings in not needing to maintain or replace the bench due to wear and tear.

The committee decided that

- (1) the current situation be noted;
- (2) the Chairman would contact the Manea Connect Committee (MCC), accepting the offer of a bench and suggesting that, subject to MCC being able to meet the cost, the bench purchased be constructed from recycled plastic.

### **PMC24/12 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects**

Further to minute PMC15/12, Councillor Emery reported that further repairs to roadways serving the pit area had been undertaken. He commented that there is a need for "re-surfacing" (with bark chippings) of the footpaths around the pit.

Councillor Emery mentioned also some tree damage around the pit area; there is one particular tree which needs work to ensure that it does not pose a health and safety problem.

The committee discussed the unauthorised parking of vehicles around the pit area and, consequently, sought to identify a measure by which such parking could be prevented. The committee concluded that the unauthorised vehicular parking could be prevented by installing wooden posts across the access route.

The committee decided that

- (1) the information reported be noted;

- (2) a work party be arranged for 4 November 2012, the primary works being: repair works to the footpaths; removing the damaged element of the one particular tree; installing the posts (to prevent unauthorised parking);
- (3) Councillor Emery would arrange procurement of the necessary materials for the works scheduled for 4 November;
- (4) Councillor Emery would inspect the other damaged trees around the pit area and report any concerns or need for remedial works to the next meeting of Manea parish Council.

### **PMC25/12 Manea Pit – Revision of the management plan**

Further to minute PMC16/12, in the absence from the meeting of Mrs Smith, the committee received no update in relation to development of the new management plan.

The committee discussed in general terms the opportunities for developing the pit area and its surroundings into a significant community asset. Such ideas included creation of a visitor information centre within the current pavilion (following construction of the proposed new one) and developing an open-air classroom/activity area on land adjoining the pit. The visitor information centre could provide information such as the history of Manea and the Ouse Washes area, as well as the facilities available within the village.

Members decided that the management committee and the Parish Council should give consideration to ways in which the pit area and its surroundings could be developed as a community facility and that any resultant proposals be included within the new management plan.

### **PMC26/12 Manea Pit – Health and Safety**

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

Further to minute PMC6/12, Councillor Emery informed the committee that he had “chased up” the contractor which is manufacturing the extension to the notice board at Manea Pit.

The committee decided that there are no new health and safety issues at this time.

### **PMC27/12 Fishing and other pit users’ issues**

Further to minute PMC18/12, the committee considered the draft design for a pond dipping area, produced by Mr Fost. The design was shown both as a technical drawing and as a structure superimposed upon a photograph of the relevant part of the pit.

The committee feels that it would be more appropriate - because of the longevity of the material and to remove the need for future maintenance of more traditional materials - to construct the structure from recycled plastic. It is acknowledged that the cost would probably exceed that of using traditional materials but there would be longer-term savings in not needing to maintain or replace parts of the structure due to wear and tear.

Councillor Emery reported that he had contacted the Environment Agency (EA), with the request that the EA cordons-off the ponds and removes the “alien” fish. He informed the committee that the EA is happy to undertake the work requested but the officer with whom he spoke suggested that it would be advisable for the Wildlife Trust to be informed of the proposed actions.

The Chairman informed the committee that allegations had been made to him regarding one particular member of the Carp Syndicate, as identified to the committee, not abiding by the “Dogs on leads” rule applying to the pit area.

The committee decided that

- (1) the draft design for a pond dipping area produced by Mr Fost be approved in principle and that he be requested, by the Chairman, to produce estimated costings for the proposal, both on basis of constructing the structure from either recycled plastic or traditional materials;
- (2) Councillor Emery would request the Environment Agency to proceed with cordoning-off the ponds and removing the “alien” fish and to inform the Wildlife Trust of these actions;
- (3) the Chairman would raise with the member of the particular Carp Syndicate member the requirement for him to keep his dog on a lead whilst walking it around the pit area.

**PMC28/12 Cambridgeshire ACRE’s Ouse Washes Landscape Project and Manea Pit**

The Chairman reported that Cambridgeshire ACRE has arranged for photographs to be taken of the Ouse Washes as part of its successful Heritage Lottery Fund bid in relation to the Ouse Washes Landscape Project.

Linked to the Ouse Washes Landscape Project, the photographer engaged by Cambridgeshire ACRE is keen to take photographs of the Manea Pit project; he has asked that the photographs include people who are playing a part in the pit area project.

The committee decided that the offer made on behalf of Cambridgeshire ACRE be accepted and that the photographer be invited to take photographs on the date of the next work party (4 November 2012).

**PMC29/12 Monitoring of actions**

The Chairman reported that he had not been able, due to commitments upon his time, to produce an updated schedule of actions document.

The committee decided that the Chairman would present an up-to-date version (i.e. with completed actions deleted and new actions added) to the next meeting of Manea Parish Council and send a copy of that document to those members of the management committee who are not representatives of the Parish Council.

**PMC30/12 Next meeting**

The committee decided that the next meeting be held on 28 November 2012, commencing at 7.30 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

**Meeting finished at 8.35 pm.**

Signature:.....(Committee Chairman).

Date.....