

MANEA PIT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

14 JUNE 2012 – 7.30 pm.

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

Apologies: Councillor Cole and Mrs B Carson.

The minutes of the former Sub-Committee meeting of 11 April 2012 and the notes of the informal Sub-Committee meeting of 16 May 2012 were confirmed and signed.

PMC1/11 Field adjoining Manea Pit – use as community orchard/woodland

Further to minute ISC1/11, Mrs Smith reported that the grass which had been sprayed with weed killer has now died and that she would arrange for the dead grass to be removed and for the area to be re-seeded. She added that the Guides have grown some plants, for planting at the site.

In addition, Mrs Smith informed the Management Committee that she would produce an annual report on the project, for submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The committee decided that the information provided by Mrs Smith be noted.

PMC2/11 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects

Further to minute ISC2/11, Mr Westgate reported that all of the materials necessary to support a further work party are on now on site; the next work party would focus upon the works which it was not possible to complete during the previous work party.

Members of the committee are aware that oil seed rape and other vegetation are now growing around the pit area, which needs removal.

Further to minute SC77/11, Mrs Smith reminded the committee of the Primary School's proposed use of the pit area before the end of the summer term and suggested that there is a need to ensure that all of the school's requirements can be met and that if any maintenance or vegetation clearance works etc are required in that regard, they should be undertaken via a work party in advance of the school's use of the pit area.

The committee decided that

- (1) in future, to ensure that only works agreed by the committee are undertaken, each work party would be "managed" by a member of the committee;
- (2) Mr Westgate would seek to arrange a work party meeting for 29 July (or the next weekend if this date proves not to be possible for volunteers) and that he would manage the activities of that work party;
- (3) the Chairman would arrange for removal of undesirable vegetation from around the pit by the Manea Street Pride Group, which is scheduled to carry out work in the village on 16 June 2012;

- (4) Councillor Emery would liaise with the Headteacher of Manea Community Primary School to ascertain the school's needs in using the pit area and ensure that any works required to enable those needs to be met are arranged.

PMC3/11 Manea Pit – Revision of the management plan

Further to minute ISC3/11, the Clerk informed the committee that the document produced Mrs Smith had been approved by Manea Parish Council at its 21 May 2012 meeting (minute M12/12 refers).

Mrs Smith informed the committee that work had begun on the Fishing Interests objectives within the plan; as part of that process, an inspection of the pit by herself and representatives of the fishing fraternity had taken place recently.

The committee decided the information reported by Mrs Smith be noted.

PMC4/11 Manea Pit – Health and Safety

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

With regard to concerns raised at minute ISC4/11 concerning the use of weed killer in the pit area, because of the potential poisoning hazard for wildlife, dogs and young children - resulting in a recommendation to the Parish Council that the use of weed killer at Manea Pit and its surroundings be used only in exceptional circumstances and that in cases where the use of weed killer is deemed necessary, it is only applied by persons who possess the necessary experience and licence(s) - Councillor Emery reported the decision of Manea Parish Council (at minute M12/12), i.e. that the use of weed killer around the pit area should continue to be permitted where the Management Committee considers it necessary and appropriate and has approved such works as part of the management plan (the application of such weed killer being applied only by persons who possess the necessary experience and licence(s)).

The committee considered the recommendation of the former Sub-Committee (at minute ISC4/11) regarding removal of the anti-vandal paint from the "dogs on leads" signs.

Some members of the committee mentioned the existence in the pit area of some plants which may be poisonous and enquired whether efforts should be made to achieve their removal. Mr Carson gave advice in relation to this matter, stating that these plants would only cause harm to the public if swallowed; instead of removal, he suggested that it would be more appropriate to provide advice to the public, via notices, in this regard.

The committee decided that

- (1) Mr Westgate would report to the next meeting on the regulations which he believes requires the display of notices to inform the public of the existence of anti-vandal paint;
- (2) a notice be placed in the notice board at the pit area, warning of the existence of some potentially poisonous plants;
- (3) Councillor Emery would obtain quotations for the cost of an extension to the notice board at Manea Pit.

PMC5/11 Fishing and other pit users' issues

Mr Fost presented the Clerk with income from the sale of fishing tickets totalling £90.00.

The committee considered a draft design for the pond dipping area, produced, as the basis for initiating debate, by Mr Fost. It was acknowledged that an estimate of the cost would be required before any decisions could be reached.

Mrs Smith made the point that it may be possible to utilise some of the grant monies from the Heritage Lottery Fund because of the "learning" element within the project.

Some members raised the issue of weed growth in certain swims; the committee concluded that this issue should be included in the action plan, for addressing next spring.

The Clerk reported that Manea Parish Council had, at its 21 May 2012 meeting (minute M/12 refers) approved the revised Carp Syndicate rules.

Further to minute ISC5/11, Mr Westgate confirmed, from the wording on the season ticket, that only rod is permitted per fishing ticket (at a cost of £25 per annum or £5 per day).

Mr Westgate enquired as to the possibility of the Parish Council purchasing an inflatable dinghy for the purpose of enabling members of the Carp Syndicate to clear broken fishing lines and other debris from the pit; he expressed the view that the likely cost would be very modest. In addition, he mentioned the use of illegal fishing rigs by some angler; he demonstrated what constitutes an illegal rig.

Further to minute ISC5/11, the committee discussed arrangements for the emptying of bins and the clearance of litter around Manea Pit. Mr Westgate reported that Mr R Shadbolt is happy to undertake this work and the Carp Syndicate members are happy to recommend him for that role.

As a result of the committee discussing allegations that a member of the Carp Syndicate had been transferring certain fish from the pit to the ponds, Mr Westgate undertook to "spread the word" among Carp Syndicate members that this action is unacceptable and, if taking place, should cease.

Mrs Smith made the point that, although according to the Carp Syndicate a harmonious situation now exists between anglers and dog walkers, there are still a number of women who are no longer comfortable to walk their dogs around the pit; the committee agreed with Mrs Smith that members should seek to "spread the word" regarding the now harmonious situation.

Councillor Emery reported that five dead (and mauled) goslings had been found recently on one of the fishing platforms. Committee members expressed their opinion as to the likely cause of these killings.

The committee decided that

- (1) the situation regarding the use of one rod per season ticket would be enforced by the bailiffs; any angler wishing to use additional rods would be permitted to pay an additional £5 per rod per day or an additional £25 per rod per season; the Chairman will update the general fishing rules to include this issue;
- (2) Mr Westgate and Mr Fost would inspect the fishing rigs of Carp Syndicate members and other anglers respectively, to ensure that illegal rigs are not being used;
- (3) Mr Westgate would obtain a quotation for the cost of an inflatable dinghy and forward such to the Clerk, for reference to Manea Parish Council;
- (4) the issue relating to the emptying of bins at Manea Pit be referred by the Chairman to the Parish Council for a decision;
- (5) anglers be asked to be vigilant in terms of threats to goslings around the pit.

PMC6/11 Monitoring of actions

The Chairman reported that, due to recent workload pressures, he had not been able to produce an updated schedule of document. He undertook to produce such a document, reflecting the actions agreed at this meeting and those held on 11 April and 16 May 2012, for presentation to 18 June 2012 meeting of Manea Parish Council and to the next meeting of the Management Committee.

The committee decided that the Chairman's proposed action in this matter be endorsed.

PMC7/11 Website information

Further to minute ISC7/11, Councillor Archer reported that there has still been no progress in relation to this matter.

PMC8/11 Terms of Reference and membership of the Management Committee

Councillor Mrs Desborough expressed concern regarding the fact that the Terms of Reference of the Management Committee have no provision for a Vice-Chairman and the difficulty that this could cause, being mindful of the work commitments of the Chairman, to the holding of meetings.

With regard to membership of the committee, members expressed the view that efforts should be made to make the committee as representative of the community as is possible; this could include the Primary School and the youth of the village plus any other interest group not included currently.

In addition, Mr Carson informed the committee that, although she is happy to support projects involving the pit area. Mrs B Carson does not wish to be a member of the committee.

The committee decided that

- (1) the situation regarding the Chairman's availability to attend meetings be monitored and if the concerns of Councillor Mrs Desborough become a reality it would request the Parish Council to consider revising the Terms of Reference to make provision for a Vice-Chairman of the Management Committee;
- (2) members of the committee would "spread the word" regarding the desire to attract other representatives to the committee; all interested parties should be directed to the Chairman, who would co-ordinate the appointment of additional members.

PMC9/11 Next meeting

The committee decided that the next meeting be held on 25 July 2012, commencing at 7.30 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

Meeting finished at 9.55 pm.

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

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