

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE

NOTES OF INFORMAL MEETING

16 MAY 2012 – 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Mrs Desborough plus Mr I Fost, Mrs P Smith and Mr H Westgate.

Apologies: Councillors Archer, Cole and Emery.

In attendance: Eight members of the public (a number of whom were anglers), Councillor Woodard and Mr T Jordan, the Parish Council Clerk (who chaired the meeting).

Given the inqurate nature of the Sub-Committee meeting, it was not possible to agree confirmation and signing of the minutes of 11 April 2012.meeting.

ISC1/11 Field adjoining Manea Pit – use as community orchard/woodland

Further to minute SC96/11, Mrs Smith informed those present that one small “trial area” of grass had been sprayed with weed killer and that the area has been “hazard” marked in the manner agreed by the Sub-Committee at minute SC96/11. As had been hoped, this area of grass is now dying.

The information provided by Mrs Smith was noted.

ISC2/11 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects

Further to minute SC97/11, Mr Westgate reported that working parties had taken place recently but expressed disappointment that some of the necessary materials had not been available. Given that situation, members of the Carp Syndicate had sourced a supply of soil and would be prepared to arrange the purchase of gravel.

Those members of the Sub-Committee who were present confirmed the existence of a decision that the necessary material be purchased (minute SC78/11 refers) and agreed that it matters not who actually makes the arrangements for purchase and delivery of materials, provided that any invoice is addressed to Manea Parish Council and is forwarded to the Clerk (to facilitate payment).

A further work party will be organised once all of the necessary materials are on-site; likely to be within the next two or three weeks.

Concern was expressed by some of those in attendance regarding the amount of “unauthorised” work (mainly related to what was felt to be the unnecessary removal of vegetation) which had been undertaken, over a period of time, at Manea Pit. In relation to this issue, the Clerk to Manea Parish Council made the point that this issue had been acknowledged by both the Sub-Committee and the Parish Council and that, hopefully, the new management approach outlined within the Terms of Reference and Standing Orders for the Manea Pit Management Committee would prevent future such occurrences. This opinion was accepted by those present.

It was agreed that all comments made and issues raised be noted and that a member of the Carp Syndicate would arrange the purchase and deliver of the gravel needed.

ISC3/11 Manea Pit – Revision of the management plan

Further to minute SC98/11, Mrs Smith spoke briefly in relation to a document that she had produced for consideration, initially, by the Sub-Committee and, subsequently, by the Parish Council.

Given the inordinate nature of the meeting, it was not possible for the Sub-Committee to give formal consideration to the document; however, those Sub-Committee members present indicated that they are happy with the content of the document.

It was agreed that if any Sub-Committee member subsequently felt that any element of the document required revision, they would forward their views to the Clerk by "close of play" on 18 May 2012 (so that he could refer those comments to the meeting of Manea Parish Council on 21 May 2012).

ISC4/11 Manea Pit – Health and Safety

Those Sub-Committee members present considered whether there are currently any health and safety issues relating to Manea Pit.

Mr Westgate raised concerns regarding the use of weed killer in the pit area, because of the potential poisoning hazard for wildlife, dogs and young children. He stated that the members of the Carp Syndicate would support a ban on the use of weed killer (as would, he suggested, members of the public) and would be prepared, where necessary, to undertake alternative means of removing weeds.

Mr Westgate made reference to the use of anti-vandal paint on the new "dogs on leads" signs at Manea Pit and made the point that, in cases where it is used, there is a requirement for notices to be displayed to inform the public of the existence of this paint. Given that, in his opinion, having to take such action would be nonsense, Mr Westgate suggested that the offending paint be removed.

It was agreed, following various views being expressed, to ask Manea Parish Council to adopt the approach that

- (1) the use of weed killer at Manea Pit and its surroundings be used only in exceptional circumstances;
- (2) 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);
- (3) when weed killing works are being undertaken, they be supervised by a member of the Manea Pit Management Committee (who would be accountable to the committee in ensuring that only the approved works are carried out).

It was agreed also that removal of the anti-vandal paint from the "dogs on leads" signs be considered by the new Manea Pit Management Committee.

ISC5/11 Fishing and other pit users' issues

Further to minute SC90/11, Mrs Smith reported that the water abstraction process had been completed and she sought the views of attendees regarding the success of the project. All agreed that a successful result had been achieved.

The Clerk confirmed, based upon information that had been provided to him by the Chairman of the Parish Council, that the Parish Council had complied with the conditions attached to the Abstraction Licence. The readings taken (on 13, 17 and 20 April 2012) show that a total of 15,763 cubic metres of water had been pumped into Manea Pit.

Mr Westgate stated that a harmonious situation currently exists between the anglers and the dog walkers.

Mr Westgate and Mr Fost presented the Clerk with Carp Syndicate membership fees of £440.00 and income from the sale of fishing tickets totalling £67.00 respectively. With the inclusion of this income, the total amount of "fishing" income received by Manea Parish Council in the financial year 2012/13 to date is £1,227.00

Mr Fost reported that he had produced a draft design for the pond dipping area (which is estimated to cost in the region of £1,000 to £2,500) and stated his understanding that Councillor Archer is investigating the possibility of obtaining grant aid for this facility.

Mr Westgate stated that he had, as agreed at minute SC100 /11, updated the Carp Syndicate rules but given the inquorate nature of the Sub-Committee meeting, no formal consideration of the rules could take place.

One of the members of the public (an angler) sought clarification regarding the number of rods permitted per fishing season ticket (at a cost of £25 per annum); Mr Fost stated that he had always understood the situation to be two rods; the member of the public stated that he understood the situation to be one rod per season ticket.

The Clerk reported an e-mail from Councillor Woodard regarding inappropriate car parking at Manea Pit, which results in access difficulties to the area by disabled people and is likely to cause damage to the ground; in addition, Councillor Woodard is concerned about the possible ecological impact upon the area in the event of fuel or oil leaks from the parked vehicles.

The Clerk reported on an exchange of e-mail correspondence between Mr Westgate and Councillor Archer regarding arrangements for the emptying of bins around Manea Pit.

It was agreed that

- (1) Mr Westgate would send electronically a copy of the updated Carp Syndicate rules to the Clerk, who would forward to members of the Parish Council (for consideration at the next meeting);
- (2) the Clerk would investigate the issue regarding the number of rods permitted per season ticket and report his findings to the first meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee;
- (3) the Manea Pit Management Committee should consider the issue of car parking at Manea Pit;
- (4) the issue relating to the emptying of bins at Manea Pit be referred by Councillor Archer to the Parish Council for a decision.

ISC6/11 Monitoring of actions

Given the absence from the meeting of Councillor Archer, no document was circulated.

ISC7/11 Website information

Given the absence from the meeting of Councillor Archer, it was not possible to receive an update on the progress of this matter.

ISC8/11 Future of the Sub-Committee

Further to minute SC102/11, the Parish Clerk, in the absence of Councillor Archer, reported to those present on this matter.

The Clerk explained that Manea Parish Council had approved, at its 16 April 2012 meeting, Terms of Reference and Standing Orders for the new Manea Pit Management Committee (which will replace the current Sub-Committee) with effect from the commencement of the new municipal year; in the case of Manea Parish Council that is 21 May 2012. He summarised the content of the document, focussing particularly upon:

- the respective roles of the Parish Council and the Management Committee
- the planning and budgetary arrangements that will operate in terms of management of Manea Pit
- membership of the committee, including the fact that there would be four members of the Parish Council serving upon the committee (one of whom would be the Chairman) and a minimum of five representatives of the community
- the specific role of the chairman of the committee (who will have a wider remit than simply chairing meetings and shall not be the same member as the Chairman of Manea Parish Council) and the fact there would be no vice-chairman
- the minimum frequency of meetings of the committee and the fact that single-issue project groups could also operate.

Those present noted the information reported by the Clerk; the Sub-Committee members indicated that they welcomed the more structured approach provided through these Terms of Reference and Standing Orders and that the concerns which had been expressed at minute SC102/11 had been addressed by the explanations given by the Clerk.

ISC9/11 Next meeting

Given the small number of Sub-Committee members in attendance and the fact that the Parish Council will be not be making its appointments to the new Manea Pit Management Committee until its meeting on 21 May 2012, it was not considered appropriate to agree a date for the first meeting of the new Management Committee.

Meeting finished at 9.10 pm.

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

Date.....