

MANEA PIT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

14 AUGUST 2013 – 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Mrs Desborough, Chairman; Councillors Archer and Emery plus Mr I Fost, Mrs P Smith and Mrs L Stevens (plus Mr P Catling, by invitation).

Apologies: Councillors Cole and Fielding, plus Mr M Bradshaw, Mr C Carson, Mr R K Miller and Mr H Westgate.

The minutes of the meeting of 26 June 2013 were confirmed and signed.

PMC11/13 Field adjoining Manea Pit – use as community orchard/woodland

Further to minute PMC3/13, Mrs Smith updated the committee in relation to this project.

Mrs Smith mentioned that, in accordance with minute PMC3/13, all of the grass at the orchard/woodland area had been cut and she commented that a “vegetation conflict” exists at the site; although grass cutting is needed to keep the area in a tidy condition, it is necessary for grass to be allowed to grow to encourage wildlife habitats. She commented also that the grass growth at the area would lessen as the trees become more established.

Mrs Smith suggested that there is a need to kill some areas of grass, to provide areas for the growing of wildflowers, and to leave some areas where grass is allowed to grow tall, for encouraging wildlife.

Mrs Smith reminded the committee that it had always been intended that additional trees would be planted and she reported that the Woodland Trust had offered, free-of-charge, a pack of tree saplings (containing in excess of 400 trees).

Further to minute PMC52/12, Councillor Emery reported that the gate and fencing - to preventing unauthorised vehicular access to the woodland area – had been undertaken. Some members of the committee commented that they had seen the new gate and fencing and expressed surprise that the gate is not closed and locked; it was the view was expressed that having an open, unlocked gate serves no purpose in seeking to prevent unauthorised vehicular access to the woodland area; it was suggested that the Parish Council should consider adopting a suitable approach to the locking and unlocking of this gate.

The committee decided that the current situation be noted and that

- (1) a pathway be cut into the grass;
- (2) areas be killed off for the planting of wildflowers;
- (3) circles of one metre in diameter be killed off around each fruit tree;
- (4) Mrs Smith would mark the areas referred to at (1), (2) and (3) above; Councillor Emery would subsequently arrange for the Parish Council's grounds maintenance contractor to undertake the necessary works;
- (5) Mrs Smith would accept the offer of tree saplings from the Woodland Trust and subsequently arrange the planting;

- (6) trees be planted during October 2013, using members of the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides groups in the village and pupils at the Manea Community Primary School to undertake this work;
- (7) it be RECOMMENDED to Manea Parish Council that it considers adopting a suitable approach to the locking and unlocking of the new gate at the woodland area.

PMC12/13 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects

Further to minute PMC4/13, the committee considered the current situation regarding the maintenance of Manea Pit and its surroundings.

Councillor Emery reported that three work parties had taken place since the last meeting of the management committee, which had enabled necessary maintenance work to all but one of the fishing platforms to be undertaken. Some strimming works had also been carried out.

Members of the committee commented upon the need to keep under the control the vegetation growth around the pit.

Councillor Archer reminded the committee that the Community Payback Team is available to undertake maintenance works around the pit area and asked members to give thought to works for which its services could be utilised.

Further to minute PMC53/12, the committee discussed again whether it would be appropriate to consider undertaking works to provide a proper surface to the car parking area at the pit instead of continuing to spend money on undertaking ad-hoc repairs; the Clerk reminded the committee of the quotation considered at minute PMC53/12.

The committee decided that the information reported be noted and

- (1) that Councillor Emery would arrange for the Parish Council's grounds maintenance contractor to spray with weed killer the footpaths and the Broad Leaf which is growing on the fishing platforms;
- (2) RECOMMENDED to Manea Parish Council that works be undertaken to provide a proper surface to the car parking area at the pit.

PMC13/13 Manea Pit – Revision of the management plan

Further to minute PMC5/13, Mrs P Smith informed the committee that she is now in a position to progress in this matter. She proposes to circulate a document in advance of the next meeting, for the committee members' consideration at that meeting.

The committee decided that the current situation be noted.

PMC14/13 Manea Pit – Health and Safety

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

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

PMC15/13 Fishing and other pit users' issues

Mr Fost handed to the Clerk income from the sale of fishing tickets, in the total sum of £110.00; Mr Fost would be forwarding to the Clerk a further sum of £148.50.

The Clerk reported that Manea Parish Council had decided (at minute M39/13) to approve the recommendation of the management committee (at minute PMC7/13) that a dog waste bin be purchased and installed at the playing field car park.

Councillor Emery reported that, in accordance with the decision of Manea Parish Council (as a result of its inspection of Manea Pit on 22 July 2013) (minute M39/13 refers), a local contractor had undertaken, yesterday, works to control the growth of lilies in the pit.

The Clerk reported, on behalf of Mr H Westgate, that

- a copy of the Carp Syndicate membership list had been sent by post to the Chairman of the management committee;
- Carp Syndicate membership remains at its highest ever level, at 29 members; the combination of this number of members and the level of fees has generated the highest level of annual Carp Syndicate income for the Parish Council;
- The Facebook page of the Carp Syndicate has been in existence for approximately eighteen months and has almost 100 followers; this provides an effective mechanism for maintaining a high level of syndicate membership.

Mr Fost expressed the view that it is necessary to maintain fish stocks and suggested that the Parish Council be asked to consider allocating a sum of £300 to £400 for the purchase of (600 to 800) Bream to be placed into the stock ponds.

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).

The committee decided that

- (1) the information reported by the Clerk and Councillor Emery be noted;
- (2) 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;
- (3) Manea Parish Council be requested to consider allocating £300 to £400 for the purchase of fish, in the event that the Environment Agency is unable to supply fish.

PMC16/13 Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership

Further to minute PMC8/13, the Clerk reported on the current position in this matter; he informed the committee that the required letters of support for the Parish Council's bid had been sent to Cambridgeshire ACRE and that the application is now being processed as one of the projects under the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership scheme.

In response to a question from Councillor Archer, the Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council's bid includes funding for the full cost of constructing and installing a pond dipping area at Manea Pit.

Mrs Smith sought clarification from the Clerk in respect of two consultation documents which had been circulated by Cambridgeshire ACRE in relation to the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership scheme.

The committee decided that the information reported by the Clerk be noted.

PMC17/13 Next meeting

The committee decided that the next meeting be held on 26 September 2013, commencing at 7.30 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

Meeting finished at 8.50 pm.

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

Date.....