

MANEA PIT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

15 MAY 2013 – 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Emery, Vice-Chairman in the Chair; Councillors Cole, Mrs Desborough and Fielding plus Mr M Bradshaw, Mr C Carson, Mr I Fost, Mr R K Miller, Mrs P Smith and Mrs L Stevens.

Apologies: Councillor Archer plus Mr H Westgate.

The minutes of the meeting of 11 April 2013 were confirmed and signed.

PMC60/12 Public forum

Parish Councillor Woodard attended the meeting to inform the committee of the allegation of one member of the Carp Syndicate that he had been assaulted by another member of the syndicate; this matter is being investigated by the Police.

Councillor Woodard stated that the victim of the alleged assault is of the opinion that, although he had paid membership fees for 2013, he has been banned by the Carp Syndicate from fishing at Manea Pit; also, he claims to be in fear of his safety if he were to fish at the pit. Councillor Woodard enquired as to what action the Manea Pit Management Committee would take in relation to this matter.

Councillor Emery responded that he could see no role for the committee in this matter; the issue of the alleged assault is a matter for the Police and any issues of compliance with the rules of the Carp Syndicate is a matter for the syndicate.

The committee decided that Councillor Woodard's comments and Councillor Emery's responses, with which the committee concurs, be noted.

PMC61/12 Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership

Further to minute PMC57/12, the committee considered the current position in this matter.

The Clerk informed members that he had completed the majority of the application form but has reached the point where input is required from the members of the management committee. He had invited Mark Nokkert, Cambridgeshire ACRE's Programme Manager for this Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership scheme, to the meeting to explain the sections of the application form which require further information.

Prior to the committee meeting, the Clerk had sent members a copy of the partly completed application form, asking them to think about the following issues:

- The risks associated with the project and any mitigating actions in that regard
- How the pond dipping area will be promoted/publicised to achieve usage by children other than those attending the Primary School
- How the Manea project links to others in the Ouse Washes scheme
- How volunteer labour/input will feature within the project – what tasks, how many volunteers etc.

The Clerk reported that, as a result of re-distribution of funding which had been allocated to a project at Earith (which has subsequently been withdrawn from the scheme), the Project Board of the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership has allocated additional funding to the Manea project. The allocation for the Manea project has been increased by £2,000 (Heritage Lottery Fund grant), plus an additional £1,000 in in-kind volunteer contributions. This makes the total allocated: £11,750 HLF grant (instead of £9,750), plus £1,250 (instead of £250) in-kind volunteer time.

Councillor Emery reported that he had attended a presentation event on 9 May 2013, at which representatives of all the bodies applying for funding under this scheme outlined their respective projects.

The deadline for submission of the application form is 31 May 2013. The Clerk would be meeting with Mr Nokkert, at the offices of Cambridgeshire ACRE, on 23 May 2013 to finalise the application form.

The committee was reminded of the three elements of the Manea project; those being:

1. the creation of a pond dipping area at Manea Pit
2. formalising the route from the school to Manea Pit, via part of the woodland area, as a walking path and interpretation trail
3. use of the current pavilion, following construction of the new facility, as an outdoor classroom and information/interpretation centre.

Mr Nokkert informed the committee that he could see no difficulty in obtaining the necessary grant funding for items 1 and 2 of the project but has concerns regarding item 3, given the fact that the current pavilion may not be available for conversion – because of the need for the Parish Council to obtain the necessary funding and then undertake construction of the new pavilion - within the time period of the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership scheme.

Mr Nokkert reported that the application would need to explain:

- the justification, in terms of community need/benefit, for the Manea project
- how the facilities delivered by the project would be promoted/publicised
- the tasks which would be undertaken by volunteers, detailing the number of persons needed and the length of time they would be needed
- the linkages between the Manea project and the others within the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership scheme (Mr Nokkert explained some of the other projects).

The committee decided that the information provided be noted and that, having listened to the comments of both the Clerk and Mr Nokkert, members would forward their comments, as a matter of priority, to the Clerk, to enable him to produce a final draft of the application form in time for his meeting with Mr Nokkert on 23 May 2013.

PMC62/12 Field adjoining Manea Pit – use as community orchard/woodland

Further to minute PMC52/12, Mrs P Smith informed the committee that, although recent work parties had been cancelled because of adverse weather conditions, pruning of the fruit trees had been undertaken and replacement trees for two which died had been planted. She added that it is no longer proposed that the grassed area be re-seeded.

The committee decided that the current situation be noted.

PMC63/12 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects

Further to minute PMC44/12, Councillor Emery reminded the management committee that Councillor Cole is now in possession of the gravel needed for maintaining the fishing platforms and the hardcore for undertaking repairs to the

access road; he informed the committee that a supply of bark chippings, resulting from works undertaken by the Parish Council to the trees and hedging at the playing field, is now on site and ready for use in undertaking the necessary footpath maintenance work.

No work parties had taken place since the last meeting of the committee.

Mention was made of the need to raise the level of at least one fishing platform, which is now under water because of the prolonged period of wet weather; this could be achieved by fixing additional boarding around the platform and then adding gravel to the space enclosed by the boarding.

The committee decided that the information reported be noted and that

- (1) Councillor Emery would arrange acquisition of the necessary materials for raising the level of certain fishing platforms;
- (2) work parties be arranged for undertaking the necessary maintenance works to the access road, the fishing platforms and the footpaths.

PMC64/12 Manea Pit – Revision of the management plan

Further to minute PMC54/12, Mrs P Smith informed the committee that she had been unable to make any progress in this matter since the last meeting. She proposes to circulate a document, for the committee members' consideration, as soon as she is able.

Mrs Stevens informed the committee that Manea Community Primary School would be using the pit area for educational purposes on both Friday of this week and Monday of next week.

The committee decided that the current situation be noted.

PMC65/12 Manea Pit – Health and Safety

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

Councillor Emery mentioned the need, to accord with health and safety requirements, to cut back the vegetation from around the water's edge at the pit, so that the edge of the pit is clearly visible to visitors/users.

The committee decided that arrangements be made for cutting back of the vegetation around the water's edge at Manea Pit.

PMC66/12 Fishing and other pit users' issues

Mr Bradshaw handed to the Clerk income from Carp Syndicate membership fees, in the total sum of £720.00. Mr Bradshaw informed the committee that the syndicate now has a full membership (of 30 anglers) and is operating a waiting list. For any vacancies that arise, priority would be given to any persons on the list who reside within the parish.

Mr Fost handed to the Clerk income from the sale of fishing tickets, in the total sum of £125.00.

Further to minute PMC47/12, Mr Miller informed the committee that the problems associated with the litter bins around the pit – i.e. persons unknown filling the bins with domestic household rubbish and waste sacks being cut and then put back into the bins – continues. The committee discussed possible ways of addressing the issue.

Mr Bradshaw informed the committee of the issues raised by attendees at a recent meeting of the Carp Syndicate; in summary:

1. a suggestion that new Carp Syndicate members would pay a joining fee (which would be passed on the Parish Council) of £30.00; it is felt that this would provide an incentive for members to renew their membership
2. the unacceptable behaviour (which Mr Bradshaw detailed) of a particular member of the Carp Syndicate; this member - the one who has made the allegation of assault (minute PMC60/12 refers) - has been given an official (written) warning by the Secretary of the Carp Syndicate
3. a request that the Parish Council purchases an inflatable dinghy for the purpose of enabling members of the Carp Syndicate to clear broken fishing lines and other debris from the pit, freeing tethered fish and wildlife etc. The committee is aware that this issue had been raised with the Parish Council previously (minute PMC5/11 refers) and that the council had rejected the suggestion
4. seeking an update in relation to the rodent problem at Manea Pit (minute PMC55/12 refers)
5. syndicate members are not happy regarding the proposal to install two metal bollards to prevent vehicular access around the pit area (minute PMC53/12 refers).

With regard to 4 above, Councillor Emery reported that this matter had been investigated by the Environmental Services Team at Fenland District Council but no evidence of rats had been found; he has subsequently asked a local pest control contractor to look at the site. In connection with 5 above, Councillor Emery responded that this decision had been made by the management committee, felt by the Parish Council to be justified and, consequently, the installation work is imminent.

The committee decided that the information reported be noted and that

- (1) it be RECOMMENDED to Manea Parish Council that the litter bins currently sited around the pit be re-located to the car park;
- (1) the issues discussed at the recent meeting of the Carp Syndicate be noted and the Parish Council be requested to consider the purchase of an inflatable dinghy for use at Manea Pit;
- (2) it be RECOMMENDED to Manea Parish Council that a £30.00 joining fee be introduced for new members of the Carp Syndicate.

PMC67/12 Monitoring of actions

In the absence of the Chairman, no updated schedule of actions document was available.

PMC68/12 Next meeting

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

Meeting finished at 9.30 pm.

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

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