

MANEA PIT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

26 JUNE 2013 – 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Mrs Desborough, Chairman; Councillors Cole, Emery and Fielding plus Mr I Fost and Mrs L Stevens.

Apologies: Councillor Archer plus Mr C Carson and Mrs P Smith.

The minutes of the meeting of 15 May 2013 were confirmed and signed.

PMC1/13 Public forum

Mr P Catling, a member of the Carp Syndicate, expressed his concern at the current condition of the pit area, commenting that a number of areas are, in his opinion, in need of maintenance works; also, a considerable amount of littering occurs. With regard to the latter point, he felt that it would not be unreasonable for Carp Syndicate members to take home with them any litter that they generate.

Councillor Cole stated that he shares the concerns of Mr Catling and had suggested to the Parish Council, at its last meeting, that it should inspect the pit area; he added that the Parish Council had agreed to this suggestion and the council would be inspecting the area immediately prior to its next meeting (minute M13/13 refers).

Mr Catling informed the committee of his concerns regarding the perception that both the Manea Pit management Committee and Manea Parish Council have of the Carp Syndicate because of the manner in which it is represented by its Secretary at meetings of this committee. Having listened to the comments made by Mr Catling on this issue, members of the management committee shared with Mr Catling their views on the matter. Mention was made of discussions at the management committee (at minute PMC2/12) and the Parish Council (at minutes M53/12 and M175/12) in this regard.

The Clerk informed the committee that Manea Parish Council had decided, because of the relationship difficulties between the Carp Syndicate and the Parish Council (via the management committee), to consider, in advance of the 2014/15 membership period, whether a Carp Syndicate should continue to operate or whether the Parish Council would instead sell annual Carp fishing tickets (minute M13/13 refers). Mr Catling expressed the hope that it would be possible to resolve the current relationship difficulties between the Carp Syndicate and the Parish Council, so that the syndicate could continue to operate beyond the end of the 2013/14 membership year.

The committee noted the comments made by Mr Catling and decided to invite him to future meetings of the Manea Pit Management Committee.

PMC2/13 Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

The committee noted that Manea Parish Council had appointed, at its 20 May 2013 meeting, Councillors Mrs Desborough and Emery as the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of this committee respectively.

PMC3/13 Field adjoining Manea Pit – use as community orchard/woodland

Further to minute PMC62/12, in the absence from the meeting of Mrs Smith, the committee received no update in relation to this project.

Councillor Emery informed the committee that the grass cutting, to form a footpath, had been undertaken by the Parish Council's grounds maintenance contractor. He expressed the opinion, with which other members of the committee concurred, that it would be beneficial if cutting of the whole of the grassed area were undertaken.

The committee decided that the current situation be noted and that Councillor Emery would arrange for the Parish Council's grounds maintenance contractor to undertake more extensive grass cutting at the community orchard/woodland.

PMC4/13 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects

Further to minute PMC63/12, the committee considered the current situation regarding the maintenance of Manea Pit and its surroundings.

The committee is aware that no work parties had taken place in recent months and that the need to undertake maintenance works remains.

The committee discussed what materials require purchasing to raise the level of one of the fishing platforms, so that it does not become submerged by water in the future.

The committee decided that the information reported be noted and that

- (1) Councillor Cole would investigate the availability of half-sleepers, to be used for raising the level of one particular fishing platform;
- (2) a work party be arranged for 3 July 2013, the focus of the work would be maintenance of the fishing platforms.

PMC5/13 Manea Pit – Revision of the management plan

Further to minute PMC64/12, in the absence from the meeting of Mrs Smith, the committee received no update in relation to development of the new management plan.

Mrs Stevens informed the committee that Manea Community Primary School's use of the pit area for educational purposes on two occasions last month had proved very successful and that pupils had produced a display at the school as a result of the lessons which took place at Manea Pit; she added that the area would be used by the school again during either week commencing 8 July or 15 July 2013.

The committee decided that the current situation be noted.

PMC6/13 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.

PMC7/13 Fishing and other pit users' issues

Mr Fost handed to the Clerk income from the sale of fishing tickets, in the total sum of £118.50.

The Clerk reported that Manea Parish Council had considered (at minute M13/13) the recommendations of the management committee set out at minute PMC66/12 and decided that

- (1) it would not be appropriate (in an attempt to address the problems associated with the litter bins around the pit) to remove the litter bins currently sited around the pit and to re-locate them to the car park;
- (2) the decision made by the Parish Council at minute M24/12 in relation to the request for purchase of an inflatable dinghy at that time (that there would be no purchase of any equipment until an action plan for works etc is in place and where those works demonstrate the need for equipment purchase) remains valid and, consequently, the Parish Council would not be purchasing at this time a dinghy for use at Manea Pit;
- (3) it would not be appropriate to consider, at this time, the introduction of joining fee for new members of the Carp Syndicate, as the Parish Council proposes to consider, in advance of the 2014/15 membership period, whether a Carp Syndicate should continue to operate; the Parish Council feels that there could be merit in Carp fishing tickets being issued directly by the Parish Council.

The committee decided

- (1) that the information reported be noted;
- (2) to RECOMMEND to Manea Parish Council that a dog waste bin be installed at the playing field car park (with the hope that dog walkers would deposit dog waste in that bin rather than the litter bins located around the pit;
- (3) the Chairman of the committee would request the Secretary of the Carp Syndicate to provide the management committee with a syndicate membership list;
- (4) that Councillor Emery would investigate the possibility of obtaining a licence to shoot cormorants at the pit (as a means of protecting fish from these predators).

PMC8/13 Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership

Further to minute PMC61/12, the committee considered the current position in this matter.

The Clerk informed the committee that he had met with Mr Nokkert, Cambridgeshire ACRE's Programme Manager for this Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership scheme, and Kirsten Bennett, the Chief Executive of Cambridgeshire ACRE, at the offices of Cambridgeshire ACRE on 23 May 2013 with the aim of finalising the application.

Since the meeting at the ACRE offices, the Clerk had produced a final draft version of the application form; he had circulated a copy of the document, for comments, to the members of Manea Parish Council, the Manea Pit Management Committee and to Mr Nokkert. The Clerk had received no comments on the content of that version of the document from any of the members of the Parish Council or the Manea Pit Management Committee (Mrs L Stevens had provided the Clerk with some comments prior to his meeting with officers of Cambridgeshire ACRE on 23 May 2013); Mr Nokkert had suggested minor alterations to some of the text of the application, which the Clerk had agreed.

Mr Nokkert had informed the Clerk that the application would need to be supported by letters from the Parish Council giving a commitment to

- (1) providing the funding necessary to cover any shortfall that there may be between the level of grant funding obtained via the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership Scheme and the cost of delivering in full the Manea Community Conservation Project
- (2) meeting all costs associated with the future maintenance of the project outputs, to ensure continued delivery of the proposed outcomes of the Manea Community Conservation Project.

At its meeting on 20 May 2013, Manea Parish Council had decided that the required letters of support ((1) and (2) above refer) for the application be sent to Cambridgeshire ACRE.

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

PMC9/13 Monitoring of actions

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

The committee noted the situation and decided that this item would not feature on the agendas of future meetings.

PMC10/13 Next meeting

The committee decided that the next meeting be held on 25 July 2013, commencing at 7.30 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

Meeting finished at 9.00 pm.

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

Date.....