

MANEA PIT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

NOTES OF INFORMAL MEETING

3 DECEMBER 2013 – 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Mrs Desborough, Chairman; Councillor Emery plus Mrs P Smith and Mrs M Williams.

Apologies: Councillors Archer, Cole and Fielding plus Mr M Bradshaw, Mr C Carson, Mr I Fost and Mr H Westgate.

In attendance: three members of the Carp Syndicate, including Mr P Catling.

Given the inquorate nature of the management committee meeting, it was not possible to agree confirmation and signing of the minutes of 23 October 2013 meeting.

IMC1/13 Committee membership

Mrs M Williams was welcomed to her first meeting of the committee.

One of the members of the Carp Syndicate, Mr P Catling, mentioned that the syndicate's representative on the management committee, Mr H Westgate, had made it known that he would not be attending meetings of the Manea Pit Management Committee for the foreseeable future.

All of those in attendance consider it to be important that the Carp Syndicate is represented at meetings of the management committee. The Clerk reminded those present of the comments made at minute PMC24/13 that the decision as to which member of the Carp Syndicate represents the syndicate on the Manea Pit Management Committee is a matter for the Carp Syndicate, not the management committee.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Mr Westgate, asking if he would be happy for one of the other members of the Syndicate to attend meetings of the Manea Pit management Committee in his stead.

IMC2/13 Field adjoining Manea Pit – use as community orchard/woodland

Further to minute PMC18/13, Mrs Smith gave an update on this project.

Mrs Smith informed those present that the pack of trees had now been received from the Woodland Trust and that Mrs M Williams had produced a plan showing the planting proposals; copies of the plan were provided to those present at the meeting. Mrs Smith commented that she had received no contact from the Primary School regarding pupils' participation in the planting activities. The Clerk reminded those present of the information that he had reported, on behalf of Mrs Stevens, at the last meeting in that regard (minute PMC18/13 refers).

It was agreed that the current situation be noted.

IMC3/13 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects

Further to minute PMC19/13, the committee members present considered the current situation regarding the maintenance of Manea Pit and its surroundings.

The committee concluded, from discussing the outcomes of the most recent work parties, that almost all of the routine maintenance works are up-to-date; the only outstanding issue is the need to undertake improvement works to one of the fishing platforms.

Councillor Emery mentioned the poor condition of the surface of one of the car parking areas at the pit, which it was felt could be addressed, by the laying of an amount of hardcore (which it was felt could be obtained from a particular source at no cost), by a future work party.

It was agreed that the information reported be noted and that a work party be arranged for the purpose of undertaking improvement works to one particular fishing platform and repair works to the surfacing of the car parking area mentioned by Councillor Emery.

IMC4/13 Manea Pit – Revision of the management plan

Further to minute PMC20/13, Mrs P Smith informed those present that she had, as agreed at minute PMC20/13, circulated to members of the management committee an updated version of the draft plan; as a result of that consultation, she had received only two responses. Mrs Smith has incorporated into the document the comments made by those respondent. She made the point that there is still further work required to the document; a number of pieces of “technical” information need to be included.

It was agreed that

- (1) the current situation be noted;
- (2) Mrs Smith would continue to develop the management plan document and, when completed, send an updated version (hopefully within the next couple of weeks), for the purpose of further consultation, to the members of the management committee.

IMC5/13 Manea Pit – Health and Safety

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

Councillor Emery expressed the opinion that the crossing within the pit area poses a potential slip hazard and suggested that works be undertaken to address the situation; he offered to undertake the necessary works.

It was agreed that the offer of Councillor Emery to undertake works to address the potential slip hazard identified be accepted.

IMC6/13 Fishing and other pit users’ issues

Mr Catling enquired as to whether the Parish Council would consider introducing a rolling programme of purchasing, say, two or three new Carp (of 15 to 20 pounds in weight) each year to maintain stock levels in the pit, given that it is usually the case that such a number of Carp die each year.

Further to minute PMC7/13, the Chairman commented that, despite a number of attempts by herself and the Clerk, she had still not been able to obtain from the Secretary of the Carp Syndicate a list of members of the syndicate.

It was agreed that Councillor Emery would

- (1) obtain, from the usual supplier of Carp to the Parish Council, a quotation for the purchase of Carp and then raise with the Parish Council the request that an annual programme of purchasing a small number of Carp be introduced;
- (2) seek to obtain from the Secretary of the Carp Syndicate a list of syndicate members.

IMC7/13 Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership

Further to minute PMC23/13, the Clerk reported on the current position in this matter; he informed those present that Cambridgeshire ACRE had submitted all of the documentation required by the Heritage Lottery Fund and that the Partnership Agreement has been signed by appropriate representatives of all the partners to the scheme.

Mrs Smith mentioned that one of the projects under the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership scheme involves the creation of heritage footpaths and also that one of the objectives within Manea's new community-led plan is to increase opportunities for walking; in addition, the draft management plan for the pit area makes reference to footpaths. Consequently, Mrs Smith had arranged to meet with the Manager of the County Council's Rights of Way Team to discuss the potential for linkages between these similar initiatives.

It was agreed that the current position be noted.

IMC8/13 Next meeting

It was agreed that the date for the next meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee be set by the Clerk, following consultation with members of the committee as to their availability.

Meeting finished at 8.35 pm.

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

Date.....