

# MANEA PIT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

## MINUTES OF MEETING

1 APRIL 2014 – 7.30 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Mrs Desborough, Chairman; Councillors Emery and Fielding plus Mr C Carson, Mr P Catling, Mr I Fost, Mr RK Miller, Mrs P Smith and Miss M Williams.

**Apologies:** Mrs L Stevens.

The minutes of the meeting of 27 January 2014 and the notes of the informal meeting of 26 February 2014 were confirmed and signed.

### **PMC33/13 Field adjoining Manea Pit – use as community orchard/woodland**

Further to minute IMC10/13, Mrs Smith gave an update on this project.

Mrs Smith informed the committee that the planting of tree saplings had been completed, the pruning of the fruit trees is still to be undertaken and that she had met with the Parish Council's grounds maintenance contractor to agree the necessary grass killing and cutting works.

The committee decided that the current situation be noted and that Mrs Smith would seek to obtain a small number of fruit trees to replace ones which had not survived.

### **PMC34/13 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects**

Further to minute IMC11/13, the committee considered the current situation regarding the maintenance of Manea Pit and its surroundings.

The committee concluded that a small number of routine maintenance works are required; these are:

- maintenance and improvement works to a small number of the fishing platforms
- re-surfacing works to certain sections of footpath
- stabilising works to the front of certain steps

With regard to the re-surfacing of footpaths, Councillor Emery mentioned that, further to minute IMC11/13, arrangements are being made for the Community Payback Team to collect an amount of hardwood chippings from land at Purls Bridge Road (resulting from the felling of trees in association with the recent carriageway repairs at Purls Bridge Road) and deliver them to the pit area. He confirmed that Councillor Cole still possesses a number of railway sleepers (available for use in the stabilising works to certain steps) and hardcore (for surfacing works). It was concluded that the only material which needs to be acquired, to enable all of the outstanding maintenance works to be undertaken, is gravel.

The committee decided that

- (1) the information reported be noted;
- (2) Councillor Emery would arrange the acquisition of 5 tons of gravel;

- (3) a work party, to undertake the maintenance work identified, be arranged for 30 April (to continue on 1 May if necessary) 2014.

### **PMC35/13 Manea Pit – Revision of the management plan**

Mrs P Smith reported that she had undertaken no further work on the new management plan, as she is still hoping to receive input from some members of the management committee who had not responded to date.

Mr Catling undertook to provide to Mrs Smith his comments on the content of the draft plan.

The committee decided that the current situation be noted.

### **PMC36/13 Manea Pit – Health and Safety**

Those committee members present 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.

### **PMC37/13 Fishing and other pit users' issues**

The Clerk reported the receipt, from Mr Fost, income from the sale of fishing tickets in the sum of £245.00 and, from Mr Catling, Carp Syndicate membership fees and guest tickets in the sum of £1,335.00.

Mrs Smith informed the committee that, in accordance with minute IMC14/13, Mr Catling, Miss Williams and she had investigated the cost of a survey of Manea Pit and a suitable company to undertake the survey work. She informed the committee that, according to the Environment Agency, it would be extremely difficult to undertake a survey to establish the number and breeds of fish within the pit; however, with regard to a botanical survey, Mr Carson had identified a suitably qualified and experienced individual (a former officer of English nature) to undertake such work. Mr Carson explained the manner in which the survey would be undertaken and the total cost (including the on-site works, report writing and travelling expenses) of such (£395.00).

Mrs Smith made the point that she had ascertained from the Manea Parish Council Clerk that undertaking works with this level of cost does not require additional quotations to be obtained. She commented that this work would be legitimate spending from the Heritage Lottery Fund grant made to the Parish Council for the community orchard/woodland project, as the survey would support the production of the new management plan.

Some members questioned the need for such a survey, enquiring as to the benefit that would result from undertaking the survey in terms of its assisting the management of Manea Pit. Mr Catling referred to a similar survey undertaken in 2009 and enquired as to what new information would be gleaned from an apparent repeat of that exercise.

Further to minute IMC14/13, Mr Catling enquired again as to whether the Parish Council would now consider introducing a rolling programme of purchasing, say, two or three new Carp each year to maintain stock levels in the pit. Councillor Emery reported that he had not yet undertaken the action agreed at minute IMC14/13 to obtain quotations for the purchase of Carp.

Councillor Emery informed the committee that, in accordance with decision of Manea Parish Council in July of last year (minute M39/13 refers), he would be making arrangements, with the contractor who had undertaken the work in previous years, to spray lilies in certain areas of the pit. Some members of the committee expressed concern regarding this activity, commenting that such action should only take place following consultation with the Wildlife

Trust and its confirmation that undertaking weed killing in the pit would not impact adversely upon its status as a County Wildlife Site.

The committee decided that

- (1) Councillor Emery would obtain quotations for the purchase of Carp;
- (2) a botanical survey of Manea Pit, in the manner described by Mr Carson and by the individual identified, at a cost of £395.00, be undertaken;
- (3) following the production, by Mr Fost and Miss Williams, of a plan showing the areas of the pit in which weed killing is proposed, Mrs Smith would write to the Wildlife Trust (enclosing a copy of the plan) seeking its approval to such action taking place.

### **PMC38/13 Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership**

Further to minute PMC31/13, the Clerk informed the committee that Cambridgeshire ACRE had now been successful in securing the funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to enable delivery of the projects within the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership scheme. This means that work can begin on providing the pond dipping facility at Manea Pit.

The committee decided that

- (1) the current situation be noted and that Mr Fost would make contact with appropriate suppliers of the pond dipping platforms to obtain up-to-date quotations for the cost of materials;
- (2) it would need to consider the production of a time scale for delivery of the project (with the possibility of implementing the pond dipping facility in July 2004).

### **PMC39/13 Committee membership**

Mr Catling commented that, in the past, the Carp Syndicate had been entitled to two representatives on the Manea Pit Management Committee and he requested that such a situation should apply at this time; consequently, he suggested that Mr J Short be appointed to membership of the committee.

The committee decided that Mr J Short be appointed to membership of the Manea Pit Management Committee.

### **PMC40/13 Next meeting**

The committee decided that the next meeting be held on 13 May 2014, commencing at 7.30 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

(Post-meeting note: given the subsequent unavailability of the meeting venue on 13 May, the Clerk is consulting members on their availability for alternative meeting dates).

**Meeting finished at 9.20 pm.**

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

Date.....