

MANEA PIT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

1 JULY 2014 – 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Mrs Desborough, Chairman; Councillors Cole, Emery, Fielding and Woodard plus Mr P Catling, Mr I Fost, Mr J Short, Mrs L Stevens and Miss M Williams.

Apologies: Mr C Carson and Mrs P Smith.

The minutes of the meeting of 3 June 2014 were confirmed and signed.

PMC10/14 Decisions made by Manea Parish Council

The Clerk informed the committee of decisions made by Manea Parish Council, since the last meeting of the management committee, in respect of Manea Pit and its surroundings. He reported that the Parish Council had decided at its meeting held on 16 June 2014 (minute M24/14 refers) that

- (1) with regard to the recommendations made by the Manea Pit Management Committee at its meeting of 3 June 2014 (at minutes PMC2/14, PMC3/14 and PMC6/14)
 - two picnic benches (for installation in the woodland area), at a cost of £250 each, be purchased;
 - the Chairman of the Parish Council would discuss with Mr R K Miller the emptying of dog waste bins at Manea Pit;
 - quotations would be sought, from three contractors, for undertaking surfacing works to the car parking area at Manea Pit;
 - the Chairman of the Parish Council would pursue, with the Chairman of one of the local Internal Drainage Boards (IDB), the possibility of that IDB undertaking, on behalf of Manea Parish Council, the cutting/clearance of the dyke in the vicinity of the pit car parking area;
 - the pit be closed for fishing purposes for a period of 10 days at an appropriate point each year to allow for spawning of fish;
- (2) 20 Carp of 10 to 12 lb in weight, at a total cost of £2,400 to £2,880 (depending upon actual weights of the fish) with payment to the supplier being split equally over the financial years 2014/15 and 2015/16, be purchased.
- (3) the Parish Council would inspect Manea Pit and the surrounding area immediately prior to its next meeting (on 21 July 2014).

With regard to the provision of benches in and around the pit area, the Chairman informed the committee that the offer from the Manea Connect Committee, a number of months ago, to donate a bench had not been pursued by the former Chairman of the Manea Pit Management Committee; now that the current Chairman of the Manea Pit Management Committee had raised this matter with the Manea Connect Committee, the matter would be considered at that committee's next meeting.

The committee decided that

- (1) the information reported by the Clerk and the Chairman be noted;
- (2) Mr Fost would arrange the purchase of Carp.

PMC11/14 Field adjoining Manea Pit – use as community orchard/woodland

Further to minute PMC2/14, Miss Williams gave an update on this project.

Miss Williams informed the committee that the planting of wild flowers had been undertaken and that, as not all of the seed had been used, further such planting could be carried out if necessary. She added that the hedging is growing well.

The committee discussed installation methods (being mindful of the need to affix them securely (likely to involve the laying of a concrete base)) of the new picnic benches (minute PMC10/14 refers) and identifying an appropriate location within the woodland area for them to be sited

The committee decided that the information reported by Miss Williams be noted and that the issues relating to installation and siting of the new picnic benches be considered by Manea Parish Council as part of its inspection of Manea Pit and its surroundings (minute PMC10/14 refers).

PMC12/14 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects

Further to minute PMC3/14, the committee considered the current situation regarding the maintenance of Manea Pit and its surroundings.

Mr Catling informed the committee that he had recently undertaken strimming works around the pit area. No other specific works were identified as being necessary at this time.

The committee decided that the situation be noted.

PMC13/14 Manea Pit – Revision of the management plan

In the absence of Mrs P Smith from the meeting, the committee received no update in relation to progress in the production of a new management plan.

The committee decided that the situation be noted.

PMC14/14 Manea Pit – Health and Safety

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

Councillor Woodard informed the committee of an occasion recently when his wheelchair had become stuck in the soft ground at the picnic area (and he needed to be rescued) and, consequently, he suggested that the committee should look to undertake works to prevent other users of wheelchairs being affected in the same way.

The committee decided that the information reported by Councillor Woodard be noted and that the issue raised by that councillor be considered by Manea Parish Council as part of its inspection of Manea Pit and its surroundings (minute PMC10/14 refers).

PMC15/14 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 £113.50 and, from Mr Catling, Carp Syndicate guest tickets in the sum of £20.00.

Mr Catling informed the committee of incidents of dogs being allowed by their owners to jump into the pit (to swim), which causes upset to nesting birds. He expressed the view that re-introducing the "dogs on leads" rule would prevent such incidents happening. In the light of the comments of Mr Catling and further to minute PMC6/14, the committee discussed the need to re-introduce, or otherwise, "dogs on leads" signs.

Although the committee feels generally that a dog not being on a lead in the pit area is not a major concern, it wishes to prevent owners allowing their dogs to swim in the pit.

Mr Catling reported on issues discussed at the recent AGM of the Carp Syndicate, including proposed changes to rules (to which all attendees agreed). He informed the committee that members of the Carp Syndicate would like an area of the pit to be netted-off to provide the facility for Carp to grow.

Further to minute IMC14/13, the Chairman reported that works undertaken on behalf of Manea Guides group to provide an area for camp fires and installation of a fire pit are progressing well.

The committee decided that

- (1) the information reported be noted;
- (2) Councillor Emery would arrange the purchase and installation of signs featuring the following wording: "This is a County Wildlife Site: Dogs are not allowed in the water";
- (3) the issue raised by Mr Catling with regard to a facility for growing Carp be considered by Manea Parish Council as part of its inspection of Manea Pit and its surroundings (minute PMC10/14 refers).

PMC16/14 Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership

Further to minute PMC714, the Clerk informed the committee that he had attended, on 25 June 2014, a "Getting Started" workshop, run by Cambridgeshire ACRE, in relation to the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership Scheme; he summarised for the committee the messages delivered and information provided to attendees at the workshop. Some of the key messages related to the need to: submit quarterly returns to ACRE on progress on projects; record time spent by volunteers on delivering the project; collect data to demonstrate achievement of the project's planned outcomes (for example, information could be obtained from the Primary School to demonstrate achievement of the "children having increased awareness of natural water-related habitats"); collect quotes and statements from visitors about their resultant learning from visits to the pit and orchard/woodland.

The Clerk made the point that time spent by committee members in discussing and delivering the pond dipping project, as well as free-of-charge use of meetings accommodation etc, would qualify as volunteer time and contributions-in-kind.

Councillor Cole reported that he had investigated the situation with regard to the foundations which would need to be provided to support the pond sipping platform; as a result, he has concerns that the plastic posts proposed for use in supporting the pond dipping area would not be sufficiently strong. The committee, consequently, discussed a number of possible alternative means of supporting the structure.

The committee decided that

- (1) the information reported by the Clerk be noted;
- (2) the Clerk would submit the quarterly returns to Cambridgeshire ACRE, based upon information to be collated and provided by Mr Fost;

- (3) a number of members of the committee would undertake, on 5 July 2014, "trial" works to decide upon the most effective means of providing safe foundations for the pond dipping area.

PMC17/14 Next meeting

The committee decided that the next meeting be held on 7 August 2014, commencing at 7.30 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

Meeting finished at 8.55 pm.

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

Date.....