

MANEA PIT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

27 JANUARY 2014 – 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Mrs Desborough, Chairman; Councillors Archer and Emery plus Mr C Carson, Mr I Fost, Mrs P Smith, Mrs L Stevens and Miss M Williams.

Apologies: Councillor Cole plus Mr R K Miller and Mr H Westgate.

The minutes of the meeting of 23 October 2013 and the notes of the informal meeting of 3 December 2013 were confirmed and signed.

PMC26/13 Field adjoining Manea Pit – use as community orchard/woodland

Further to minute IMC2/13, Mrs Smith gave an update on this project.

Mrs Smith informed the committee that she had spent an afternoon recently, with pupils from the Manea Community Primary School, planting approximately 100 trees at the woodland; each of those trees is supported by a cane and is protected by a cover. In accordance with the decision of the management committee (at minute PMC18/13), the trees had been planted in groups of 5 or 6; the overall layout of the scheme will provide a mix of groups of trees and areas of mown grass. She explained that the aim is to undertake further tree planting towards the end of February 2014.

Mrs Smith reminded the committee of the need to kill areas of grass around each tree (a diameter of approximately 2 metres) to assist their growth (as had been agreed at minute PMC43/12).

Mrs Smith reported that she had also planted some wildflower seeds and would be growing plants from seed, for planting at the orchard in the summer.

The committee decided that

- (1) the current situation be noted;
- (2) Councillor Emery would arrange for the Parish Council's grounds maintenance contractor to kill the areas of grass around each tree.

PMC27/13 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects

Further to minute IMC3/13, the committee considered the current situation regarding the maintenance of Manea Pit and its surroundings.

The committee concluded that almost all of the routine maintenance works are up-to-date; the only outstanding issues are the need to undertake maintenance and improvement works to two of the fishing platforms.

Mr Fost mentioned that there are two fallen trees within the pit area, which require removal.

Further to minute PMC12/13, the Clerk reported that Manea Parish Council had included financial provision in its budget for 2014/15 for undertaking works to provide a proper surface to the car parking area at the pit (minute M116/13 refers).

Councillor Archer reminded the committee that the Community Payback Team is available to undertake maintenance works around the pit area and asked members whether they are aware of any works for which its services could be utilised.

The committee decided that

- (1) the information reported be noted;
- (2) a work party be arranged for the purpose of undertaking maintenance and improvement works to two of the fishing platforms;
- (3) Mr Fost would arrange removal of the two fallen trees;
- (4) subject to Councillor Emery being able to obtain wood chippings, the services of the Community Payback Team be utilised to undertake maintenance works to the footpaths within the pit area.

PMC28/13 Manea Pit – Revision of the management plan

Further to minute IMC4/13, Mrs Smith informed the committee that would circulate the latest version of the new management plan to committee members for consideration and comment.

Mrs Smith commented that consultation on the previous version of the document had generated only two responses. She made the point that there are a number of pieces of "technical" information which need to be included and, consequently, it is important that the members of the committee who possess those areas of knowledge and expertise provide their comments on the latest version of the new management plan to ensure that the document contains no factual errors. The maps/plans (showing location of the fishing platforms, the layout of the community orchard/woodland etc) which will accompany the final version of the document are still to be produced.

The committee decided that

- (1) the current situation be noted;
- (2) Mrs Smith would send an updated version (within the next day or so), for the purpose of further consultation, to the members of the management committee;
- (3) comments on the latest version of the new management plan be provided to Mrs Smith by 10 February 2014.

PMC29/13 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.

PMC30/13 Fishing and other pit users' issues

The Clerk informed the committee that he had received an e-mail from Mr H Westgate, in which he stated that the Carp Syndicate had no issues requiring by consideration by the management committee at this time.

Further to minute IMC6/13, the Clerk reported that, with regard to the committee's request that an annual programme of purchasing a small number of Carp be introduced, Manea Parish Council had decided that no consideration be given to further purchases of fish until after the Chairman of the Manea Pit Management Committee had received from the Secretary of the Carp Syndicate a list of syndicate members.

Further to minute PMC66/12, Mr Fost 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 - had ceased since installation of the new gate at the woodland area (minute PMC11/13 refers).

Further to minute IMC6/13, Councillor Emery reported that he had not been able to obtain from the Secretary of the Carp Syndicate a list of members of the syndicate; the Secretary claims that he had posted his only copy of the list to the Chairman of this committee; the Chairman had, however, not received such a list.

In the light of the ongoing relationship difficulties between the Carp Syndicate and the Parish Council (via the management committee), the committee considered the future (or not) of the Carp Syndicate. The committee is aware that Manea Parish Council had decided (at minute M13/13) 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.

The committee considered the setting of fees for Carp Syndicate membership and fishing tickets for 2014/15. The committee took into account the following factors:

- the current economic circumstances
- current level of membership of the Carp Syndicate
- the level of income that is generated currently
- the need to be able to continue to fund maintenance of the area
- fees for Carp Syndicate membership and fishing tickets for 2013/14 were increased by 10%.

One member of the committee commented that lillies will need killing early this year and weeds will require similar treatment later in the year.

Further to minute M28/13, the committee discussed further the request of Manea Guiding for use of a suitable area at Manea Pit for camp fires and what clearance works etc would be needed to facilitate that activity; any works needed would be carried out in the spring of 2014.

The committee decided

- (1) that the information reported by the Clerk and certain members of the committee be noted;
- (2) to RECOMMEND to Manea Parish Council that the Carp Syndicate should not operate beyond the current membership year; the Parish Council taking over administration of process of issuing tickets for Carp fishing with effect from April 2014;
- (3) it would RECOMMEND to Manea Parish Council that fees for Carp Syndicate membership and fishing tickets for the 2014/15 be not increased from the 2013/14 level; approval of this recommendation would result in fees for 2014/15 remaining at:
 - £120.00 for annual membership of the Carp Syndicate
 - £27.50 for an annual fishing season ticket
 - £16.50 for a concessionary rate annual season ticket

- £5.50 for a day fishing ticket;

(4) The Chairman would meet with the Leader of the Manea Guides group to agree a suitable area for camp fires and to identify what works would be necessary to facilitate such use.

PMC31/13 Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership

Further to minute PMC24/13, Mrs Smith expressed the opinion that the committee should appoint one of its members to oversee/manage delivery of pond dipping project and suggested that Mr Fost - given the work that he done in terms of producing a design, producing estimates for the cost of construction materials and fixings etc - would be the most appropriate committee member to perform that role.

Mr Fost stated that he would be prepared to oversee/manage delivery of the pond dipping project and the other committee members indicated their support for that course of action

The committee decided that Mr Fost would oversee/manage delivery of the pond dipping project on behalf of the Manea Pit Management Committee.

PMC32/13 Next meeting

The committee decided that the next meeting be held on 26 February 2014, commencing at 7.30 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

Meeting finished at 8.45 pm.

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

Date.....