

MANEA PIT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

3 JUNE 2014 – 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Mrs Desborough, Chairman; Councillors Cole and Woodard plus Mr C Carson (from 7.40 pm), Mr P Catling, Mr I Fost, Mr J Short, Mrs P Smith, Mrs L Stevens and Miss M Williams.

Apologies: Councillor Emery.

The minutes of the meeting of 1 April 2014 were confirmed and signed.

PMC1/14 Committee membership etc

The Clerk reported that Manea Parish Council had appointed, at its annual meeting 2014, Councillors Mrs Desborough and Emery as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of this committee respectively for the municipal year 2014/15 and had added Councillor Woodard to membership of this committee. Furthermore, the council had revised the Terms of Reference and Standing Orders of the Manea Pit Management Committee to enable the increase in the number of Parish Council members on the committee; the Parish Council is hopeful that increasing the number of Parish Councillors on the committee will reduce the potential for meetings to be inquorate (as had been the case on a number of occasions in recent months).

Mrs P Smith informed the committee that she would be removing from Manea in the next few months; however, she would do her best to ensure that the work she undertakes on behalf of the Manea Pit Management Committee would be left in "good shape" ready for "handover".

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

PMC2/14 Field adjoining Manea Pit – use as community orchard/woodland

Further to minute PMC33/13, Mrs Smith gave an update on this project.

Mrs Smith expressed the opinion that the planting at this site is looking good overall; there has been considerable growth of the hedgerows; some of the trees (such as the Hawthorns) may benefit from pruning next year; only one fruit tree has failed to survive (this will be replaced). She added that the Parish Council's grounds maintenance contractor is undertaking the grass cutting works agreed by the committee.

Mrs Smith sought the views of the committee in relation to the grant awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for this project; she reminded the committee that the HLF is currently expecting that the whole of the grant awarded will be spent by October of this year. The committee has two options; these are to either progress now some of the actions included within the approved project or to request an extension of time for completion of the project (and the consequent delay in drawing-down the unclaimed funding); Mrs Smith made the point that there are overlaps between this project and the one submitted by Manea Parish Council under the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership scheme in terms of the requirement to produce and install interpretation boards and she expressed the view, with which other members of the committee concurred, that there may be benefits in requesting an extension, by one year, for spending of the HLF grant, so that the work on producing information (such as species of planting within the orchard/woodland, details of the wildlife and fish that can be found within the area, the aquatic life within the pit, the linkages between the pit and the Ouse Washes area) for interpretation boards could be co-ordinated (and not duplicated).

Mrs Smith suggested to the committee that it needs to decide, following its collation of all of the information, the way(s) in which the interpretation information is presented; although the expectation from the HLF (the body which is providing the funding for both the orchard/woodland project and the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership scheme) is that traditional "printed" boards would be provided, she suggested a minor variation to the traditional approach; that being a "frame" on a suitable mounting. Such an approach would enable the information to be updated/refreshed as appropriate and would not be a facility which would deteriorate through exposure to the elements. Mrs Smith circulated photographs of similar "frames" used elsewhere and sketches prepared by Miss Williams of possible designs for ones to be installed around the pit and orchard/woodland area.

Mr Catling suggested that the installation of a couple of picnic benches within the woodland area would provide a useful facility for users of the area.

The committee decided that

- (1) the information reported by Mrs Smith be noted;
- (2) Mrs Smith would apply to the HLF for an extension of time for spending the whole of the grant;
- (3) Mrs Smith and Miss Williams would develop further the possible information "frames" and obtain quotations for the likely cost of producing and installation five or six such items;
- (4) Councillor Woodard would obtain quotations for the cost suitable picnic benches (of either traditional or recycled material).

PMC3/14 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects

Further to minute PMC34/13, the committee considered the current situation regarding the maintenance of Manea Pit and its surroundings.

The committee was informed that three working parties had taken place since the last meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee and that, by using the hardcore and gravel obtained, the significant majority of the fishing platforms had been brought up to a good standard of repair.

The committee decided

- (1) that the information reported be noted;
- (2) that Councillor Cole would arrange for the Parish Council's grounds maintenance contractor to undertake general strimming works to the edges footpaths and to certain fishing platforms;
- (3) to RECOMMEND to Manea Parish Council that it considers the whole issue of the provision and emptying of dog waste bins at Manea Pit;
- (4) to RECOMMEND to Manea Parish Council that, following inclusion of a financial sum within the council's budget for 2014/15 (minute M116/13 refers), it now proceeds with obtaining quotations for undertaking surfacing works to the car parking area at Manea Pit (minute M53/13 refers);
- (5) to RECOMMEND to Manea Parish Council that it considers arranging the cutting/clearance of the dyke in the vicinity of the pit car parking area.

PMC4/14 Manea Pit – Revision of the management plan

Mrs P Smith reported that she had received very recently the comments, provided by Mr Catling, of the members of Carp Syndicate and that the next stage in the process is the inclusion of these (as well as the comments from all other respondents to the consultation exercise) within the draft plan. Mrs Smith suggested to the management committee that the consultation period should now be considered as closed, otherwise there is a danger that a final version of the plan would never be produced.

The committee decided that the current situation be noted, that the consultation process on the draft plan is now closed and that Mrs Smith would work on producing a version which includes all of the comments submitted through the consultation exercise; the management committee would then agree a final draft version for consideration by Manea Parish Council.

PMC5/14 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.

PMC6/14 Fishing and other pit users' issues

The Clerk reported the receipt, from Mr Fost, of income from the sale of fishing tickets in the sum of £132.50.

The Clerk reported that Councillor Emery had obtained a quotation for the purchase of Carp; the quotation, which he reported to the last meeting of Manea Parish Council, provided a cost for 20 Carp of 10 to 12 lb in weight and one for 4 Carp of 20 to 25 lb in weight. The Parish Council was of the opinion that it is not necessary to purchase Carp of the weights contained within the quotation; it would be more appropriate to purchase Carp of lighter weights.

On that basis, the Parish Council had decided that it was happy, in principle, to the purchase of a small number of Carp each year to maintain stock levels but not of the weights mentioned within the quotation obtained by Councillor Emery. The Parish Council had, therefore, asked Councillor Emery to obtain quotations for Carp of lighter weights.

With regard to the possible purchase of additional Carp, Mr Fost mentioned that this matter had been discussed by a number of anglers since the last meeting of the committee, who feel that the Parish Council should be looking to purchase Carp of 8 to 15 lb in weight; he added that fish of that size would cost around £12 per lb and that smaller fish would cost around £7 per lb.

Mr Fost circulated information in relation to the purchase of Carp, which he undertook to send to the Clerk, for forwarding to members of Manea Parish Council.

The committee discussed whether "dogs on leads" should be re-introduced at Manea Pit (in general, the signs provided originally had since "disappeared"; there was a variety of views as to the need/benefit or otherwise of such signs.

Mrs Smith reported that a plan showing the areas of the pit in which weed killing is proposed had been sent to the Wildlife Trust (WT) and the WT had subsequently indicated its acceptance of the proposal. With regard to this weed killing, a majority of members of the committee considered that the use of a contractor to undertake this work would be unnecessary and that a group of members of this committee would be capable of undertaking this task.

Mr Catling suggested to the committee that Manea Pit ought to be closed for fishing purposes for a period of 10 days at an appropriate point each year to allow for spawning of fish; if agreed by the Parish Council, this would require both the general Fishing Rules and the Carp Syndicate Rules to be amended. Mr Catling also proposes to amend the latter rules to enable Carp Syndicate Bailiffs to enforce those rules.

The committee decided that

- (1) the further Carp prices to be obtained by Councillor Emery be considered at the next meeting of the committee;
- (2) the need to re-introduce, or otherwise, "dogs on leads" signs be considered at the next meeting of the committee;
- (3) the killing of weeds in the areas of Manea Pit which had been identified in the plans sent to the Wildlife Trust be undertaken by a group of members of this committee;
- (4) it would RECOMMEND to Manea Parish Council that 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.

PMC7/14 Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership

Further to minute PMC38/13, the committee considered generally the next steps in progressing the work necessary to provide the pond dipping facility at Manea Pit.

Mr Fost circulated drawings that he had produced for the proposed pond dipping platform; as well as showing the proposed design, the drawings showed the types and number of fixings required.

Some members of the committee expressed reservations as to whether the area which had been selected for the pond dipping facility is the most appropriate but acknowledged that the funding made available under the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership scheme is on the basis of the information contained within the Parish Council's application and, consequently, it may be inadvisable to revise the proposal in case it could jeopardise the approved funding.

The committee decided that

- (1) the current situation be noted;
- (2) Councillor Cole and Mr Fost would investigate the situation with regard to the foundations which would need to be provided to support the pond sipping platform and report to the next meeting of the committee on their findings.

PMC8/14 Items for future agendas

The committee decided that, so that the committee is kept informed fully, the agenda for each future meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee would include an item relating to decisions made by Manea Parish Council in respect of matters affecting Manea Pit and its surroundings; this would avoid the type of situation whereby some members of the Manea Pit Management Committee were unaware of the decision made by Manea Parish Council at minute M39/13 to undertake works, last autumn, to control the growth of lilies in the pit.

PMC914 Next meeting

The committee decided that the next meeting be held on 1 July 2014, commencing at 7.30 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

Meeting finished at 9.30 pm.

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

Date.....