

MANEA PIT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

7 AUGUST 2014 – 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Mrs Desborough, Chairman; Councillors Cole, Emery and Woodard plus Mr C Carson, Mr P Catling, Mr I Fost, Mr J Short and Mrs P Smith.

Apologies: Mr R K Miller, Mrs L Stevens and Miss M Williams.

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

PMC18/14 Decisions made by Manea Parish Council

The Clerk reported briefly on the Parish Council's inspection of the pit area on 21 July 2014, following which the council had considered whether there are any issues which require either addressing by the Parish Council or reference to the Manea Pit Management Committee. The council concluded from its inspection that the pit and its surroundings area are being well maintained but improvement works are required to the picnic area, which had been the subject of some vandalism and misuse. Members also feel that steps should be cut into the earth in a couple of locations to provide easier and safer access to adjacent fishing platforms.

As part of the inspection, members had examined the matters raised by the Manea Pit Management Committee at minutes PMC11/14, PMC14/14 and PMC15/14. As a result, the council (at minute M39/14):

- had identified two suitable locations for the siting of the two new picnic benches
- noted the ground condition of the area in which Councillor Woodard had become stuck in his wheelchair recently and identified this as an issue which could be examined more fully by a future work party
- had gained a better understanding of the suggestion of Mr Catling with regard to the provision of a facility for growing Carp.

The committee decided that

- (1) the information reported by the Clerk be noted;
- (2) a work party be arranged for the cutting of steps into the earth in a couple of locations (to provide easier and safer access to adjacent fishing platforms);
- (3) arrangements be made for installation of the two new benches at the locations within the woodland area, as agreed by the Parish Council and identified to the Manea Pit Management Committee.

PMC19/14 Field adjoining Manea Pit – use as community orchard/woodland

Further to minute PMC11/14, Mrs Smith gave an update on this project.

Mrs Smith informed the committee that the planting of wild flowers had been undertaken and that, as not all of the seed and compost had been used, further such planting could be carried out if necessary. She commented that it should soon be feasible for the protective "fencing" to be removed.

Further to minute PMC2/14, Mrs Smith reported that she was still to apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund for an extension of time for spending the whole of the grant for this project.

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

PMC20/14 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects

Further to minute PMC12/14, the committee considered the current situation regarding the maintenance of Manea Pit and its surroundings.

The view of committee members is that the maintenance works are generally up-to-date; the situation would continue to be monitored, with work parties being arranged as and when necessary to keep "on top" of the situation.

The committee was informed that the Parish Council had witnessed, during its inspection of Manea Pit and its surroundings, damage caused to one of the benches within the picnic area. On hearing this, the committee suggested that it might be wise to consider removal of the benches from their current location and to re-locate them to areas where they would be more visible; it may be appropriate to site one in the vicinity of the skateboard park.

The committee decided that the situation be noted and that the views of Manea Parish Council be sought in relation to the possible re-location from the picnic area of the benches.

PMC21/14 Manea Pit – Revision of the management plan

Further to minute PMC4/14, Mrs P Smith informed the committee that she had made further progress in the production of an updated draft version of the new management plan; she had almost completed inclusion of all of the comments received from members of the committee and would be in a position to circulate the latest version of the document very soon; this could then be considered at the next meeting of the committee.

Mrs Smith suggested that, following the committee's approval of a final draft version, the management plan would be the subject of consultation with Manea Parish Council and the Wildlife Trust; following such considerations, the resultant document would be the subject of consultation (through access to the document via the Parish Council's website) with the community.

The committee decided that the information reported by Mrs Smith be noted and that the suggested approach to consultation and approval of the new management plan be endorsed.

PMC22/14 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.

PMC23/14 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 £282.50.

Councillor Emery informed the committee that, further to minute PMC15/14, he had purchased signs featuring the following wording: "This is a County Wildlife Site: Dogs are not allowed in the water"; consequently, the committee discussed and agreed arrangements for the installation of these signs at appropriate locations within the pit area. It was agreed also that Mr Catling would place a copy of the sign in the notice board at Manea Pit.

Mr Carson circulated, for committee members' information, copies of leaflets (published by the Environment Agency) providing examples of best practice in fisheries management.

Further to minute PMC10/14, Mr Fost informed the committee that an order for the purchase of Carp had been placed with the supplier and that these fish should be available in late October/early November 2014 and the opportunity exists for members of the management committee to "hand pick" which individual Carp they would like to acquire.

Further to minute PMC15/14, Mr Catling informed the committee that the Carp Syndicate no longer wishes to proceed with the suggestion of netting-off an area of the pit to provide the facility for Carp to grow.

The committee decided that the information reported be noted.

PMC24/14 Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership

Further to minute PMC16/14, the Clerk reminded the committee of 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.

Mr Fost informed the committee of the latest proposals for providing the foundations for the pond sipping area, which involves the use of RSJs with a span of 13 metres (likely to cost in the region of £800 to £1,000).

The committee decided that the information reported by the Clerk and Mr Fost be noted and that Mr Fost would order the decking for the pond dipping area.

PMC25/14 Next meeting

The committee decided that the next meeting – at which the only of business would be consideration of the latest version of the draft management plan (minute PMC21/14 refers) - be held on 9 October 2014, commencing at 7.30 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

Meeting finished at 8.50 pm.

Signature:.....(Committee Chairman)

Date.....