

# MANEA PIT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

## NOTES OF MEETING

3 NOVEMBER 2015 – 7.30 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Mrs Desborough, Chairman; Councillors Emery and Fielding plus Mr I Fost and Miss M Williams.

**Apologies:** Councillors Cole and Woodard plus Mr C Carson, Mrs P Smith and Mrs L Stevens.

The minutes of the meeting of 23 June and the informal meeting of 9 September 2015 were confirmed and signed.

### **PMC18/15 Decisions made by Manea Parish Council**

The Clerk reported on the decisions made by Manea Parish Council since 9 September 2015 informal meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee in relation to matters affecting the operation and management of Manea Pit:

- at its meeting on 14 September 2015, Manea Parish Council had decided (at minute M73/15) to approve the recommendation of the informal meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee of 9 September 2015 (minute IMC2/15 refers) that "clean up after your dog" signs be purchased and installed at appropriate locations in the community orchard/woodland
- at its meeting on 19 October 2015, Manea Parish Council had decided (at minute M87/15) to approve the request, made at the meeting by Mr I Fost, for purchase of a supply of mulch (at an estimated cost of £80) and a small number of trees for the community orchard/woodland (at an estimated cost of £100).

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

### **PMC19/15 Field adjoining Manea Pit – use as community orchard/woodland**

Miss Williams informed the committee that routine maintenance works continue. She mentioned that she is currently investigating the cost and appropriate species of additional trees that could be planted at the site.

Councillor Emery informed the committee that the Manea Allotment Association would soon have available, following some trees re-siting works at the allotments site (planned currently for 22 November 2015) a number of "surplus" trees; the association is happy to make such trees available for re-planting at the community orchard/woodland and the pit area.

All members of the committee are very pleased with the appearance of the community orchard/woodland area.

The committee decided that the current situation be noted.

### **PMC20/15 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects**

Further to minute IMC12/15, the committee considered the current situation regarding the maintenance of Manea Pit and its surroundings.

Further to minute PMC12/15 , the Clerk reported that the contractor which undertakes the maintenance works to the trees owned by Manea Parish Council had delivered a supply of bark chippings for use within the pit area . Councillor Fielding informed the committee that he had subsequently made arrangements for the Community Payback Team to undertake maintenance works to the pathways, using these chippings, on 15 November 2015.

Although it was proposed previously that the laying of bark chippings would also take place at the picnic area adjacent to the playing field, the committee is now of the opinion that, apart from general tidying of that area, no further works should be undertaken to the picnic area - the benches have suffered vandalism in the past and also members of the public now tend to use the benches in the community orchard/woodland area instead. The planting of some of the "surplus" trees from the allotments site (minute PMC19/15 refers) at the picnic area, to enhance the now "redundant" space, could be considered.

Further to minute IMC3/15, the Chairman informed the committee that she had made contact with officers at the County Farms Service regarding the siting of two interpretation boards on land owned by that service and had subsequently provided to the officers the information that they had requested of her. However, a number of weeks have passed and she has received no response. The committee is of the opinion that the lack of response from officers of the County Farms Service suggests that the County Council has no objections to the installation on its land of two interpretation boards and, consequently, arrangements would be made for installation of these two boards.

The Clerk informed the committee of the request made by a member of the public at 19 October 2015 meeting (minute M87/15 refers) that the Parish Council considers the erection of directional signage to Manea Pit at appropriate locations in and around the village (at the end of Park Road as a minimum).

The committee supports the opinion of the resident who had spoken at the last meeting of Manea Parish Council that the erection of directional signage in respect of Manea Pit would be desirable and discussed possible types of signage and locations for such.

The committee decided that the situation be noted and that the Clerk would enquire of both the Local Highway Authority and the Project Manager of the Ouse Washes landscape Partnership scheme as to the possibility of provision of and funding for directional signage to Manea Pit.

#### **PMC21/15 Manea Pit – Revision of the management plan**

Although Mrs Smith was absent from the meeting she had informed the Clerk that she would be undertaking further work to the new management plan later this month.

The committee decided that the situation be noted.

#### **PMC22/15 Manea Pit – Health and Safety**

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

Further to minute IMC5/15, the committee is aware that the life rings purchased by Manea Parish Council still need to be installed.

The committee decided that there are no new health and safety issues at this time and that Councillor Emery and Mr Fost would identify appropriate locations for installation of the life rings and then undertake the necessary works.

### **PMC23/15 Fishing and other pit users' issues**

Members of the committee had no specific matters to raise in relation to use of the pit area and its surroundings.

Mr I Fost informed the committee of his belief that Mr P Catling is no longer the Secretary of the Carp Syndicate. The committee is of the view that it is important to continue to have representation of the Carp Syndicate on the Manea Pit Management Committee.

The committee decided that the current situation in general be noted and that Mr Fost would seek confirmation of the situation in relation to the position of Secretary of the Carp Syndicate; ascertaining the identity and contact details of the new Secretary, so that the person could be appointed to membership of the committee and invited to its meetings.

### **PMC24/15 Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership**

Further to minute IMC7/15, Mr I Fost informed the committee that he had purchased 10 fishing nets for pond dipping purposes and he showed members of the committee one of those nets.

The Clerk read to the committee an e-mail from Mrs L Stevens, in which she states that arrangements had been made for the pond dipping nets to be presented formally, by some members of this committee, to the school during the morning assembly on 20 November 2015.

The Clerk read to members an e-mail from Sara Marshall, the Countryside and Marketing Officer for the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership scheme, in which she informs the Manea Pit Management Committee of her discussions with the RSPB Ouse Washes regarding the possibility of holding the OuseFest Fun Day in Manea next year, with activities taking place at both the RSPB site and Manea Pit and having a shuttle bus service travelling between the sites. The provisional date for the event is Saturday 23 July 2016. Miss Marshall is inviting the views of the Manea Pit Management Committee on this possibility.

The committee expressed its support for this proposal and would consider, closer to the date of the event, what activities it would deliver at the OuseFest Fun Day 2016.

The committee decided that the information reported by the Clerk be noted and that he would inform the Countryside and Marketing Officer for the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership scheme of the committee's desire to support and participate in this event.

### **PMC25/15 Next meeting**

The committee decided that the next meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee be held on a date, early in the New Year, to fixed by the Clerk, following his consultation with members of the committee as to their availability. The date of the meeting would be fixed on the basis of maximising the level of attendance.

**Meeting finished at 8.45 pm.**

Signature:.....(Committee Chairman)

Date.....