

MANEA PIT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

6 JANUARY 2015 – 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Mrs Desborough, Chairman; Councillors Cole, Emery and Woodard plus Mr C Carson and Miss M Williams.

Apologies: Mr P Catling, Mrs P Smith and Mrs L Stevens.

The minutes of the meeting of 25 November 2014 were confirmed and signed.

PMC34/14 Decisions made by Manea Parish Council

The Clerk reported briefly on the decisions made at meetings of Manea Parish Council, since 25 November 2014 meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee, in relation to matters affecting the operation and management of Manea Pit. There had only been one such decision, which had been made at 15 December 2014 meeting of Manea Parish Council (minute M108/14 refers); that being, having considered the proposal from Mr Catling in relation to the purchase of "replacement" Carp (minute PMC31/14 refers), to request Mr Catling to obtain, to comply with the Parish Council's Financial Regulations, two additional quotations for the purchase of Carp.

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

PMC35/14 Field adjoining Manea Pit – use as community orchard/woodland

Further to minute PMC27/14, Miss Williams gave an update on this project.

Miss Williams informed the committee that she had placed an order for a number of apple trees (to replace those which had died) and had also submitted a request to the Woodland Trust for a further supply of free-of-charge trees.

Miss Williams mentioned that a maintenance day had taken place on 7 December 2014; included within the works undertaken by the volunteers was cutting the areas of grass within the individual groups of five of trees. She informed the committee that it proposed to hold further maintenance days on the first and third Sunday of each month; her intention is that the dates and times of future maintenance days would be publicised via the display of posters in the village and the Manea Matters publication.

Mr C Carson requested Miss Williams to identify suitable locations for the planting of a couple of Black Poplar trees.

The committee is aware that cars had accessed the area in the recent past and expressed the view that all regular users of this area should ensure that the gate which was installed to prevent such unauthorised access is locked.

The committee decided that the information reported by Miss Williams be noted.

PMC36/14 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects

Further to minute PMC28/14, 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 decided that the current situation be noted and that the need for further maintenance works be assessed in greater detail early in 2015.

PMC37/14 Manea Pit – Revision of the management plan

Further to minute PMC29/14, the Clerk reported that he had been informed by Mrs P Smith that she expected to be in a position to circulate before the end of this week a final draft version of the management plan; Mrs Smith is hopeful that Manea Parish Council would, at its 19 January 2015 meeting, be able to approve the plan for the purpose of consultation with Manea residents (via the council's website and the Manea Wildlife Facebook Group) and the Wildlife Trust.

The committee decided that the situation be noted.

PMC38/14 Manea Pit – Health and Safety

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

Councillor Woddard mentioned the recent theft of one of the benches from the community woodland area and expressed the view that works should be undertaken to ensure that the bench fixings which remained in place after the theft do not pose a safety hazard to visitors to that area. Councillor Emery undertook to address the matter.

Councillor Woodard sought the committee's opinion as to whether a replacement for the stolen bench should be purchased and installed; he commented that if such action were felt appropriate, he wished to suggest the use of a bench of a different design to the one which had been stolen.

The committee decided that the situation be noted and that Councillor Woodard would refer to Manea Parish Council any ideas that he may have with regard to the purchase and installation of a replacement for the stolen bench.

PMC39/14 Fishing and other pit users' issues

Councillor Emery reported that he had informed James Hooker, the officer at the Environment Agency who has responsibilities for issues related to the movement of fish, that Manea Parish Council had accepted his offer to provide (and install), free-of-charge to Manea Parish Council, a number of "hedgehog" devices, which act as a deterrent to cormorants. As some time had passed since Councillor Emery's contact with Mr Hooker, he undertook to make further contact with that officer, to seek both an update on the progress in installation of the "hedgehog" devices and advice as to additional methods available to deter cormorants from Manea Pit.

Some members of the committee mentioned damage which had been caused to the pit area by a truck becoming stuck.

The committee decided that the situation be noted and that the Clerk would enquire as to whether Mr Catling, as the representative of the Carp Syndicate on this committee, is aware of the owner of the truck which had caused the damage to the pit area.

PMC40/14 Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership

Further to minute PMC32/14, the Clerk reminded the committee again 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. He commented that, in the absence of any data being provided to

him in relation to time spent by volunteers on delivering the project, he had not been able, to date, to submit any quarterly returns to Cambridgeshire ACRE.

In addition, the Clerk mentioned that, now that the materials needed for construction of the pond dipping area had been purchased by the Parish Council, he would re-claim, via Cambridgeshire ACRE, the monies expended by the council.

The committee decided that the information reported by the Clerk be noted and that they would seek to ensure the Clerk's receipt of records of time spent by volunteers on delivering the project.

PMC41/14 Next meeting

The committee decided that the next meeting be held on 3 March 2015, commencing at 7.30 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

Meeting finished at 8.10 pm.

Signature:.....(Committee Chairman)

Date.....