

# MANEA PIT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

## NOTES OF INFORMAL MEETING

9 SEPTEMBER 2015 – 7.30 pm.

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

**Apologies:** Councillor Woodard plus Mrs L Stevens.

Given the inqurate nature of the management committee meeting, it was not possible to agree confirmation and signing of the minutes of 23 June 2015 meeting.

### **IMC1/15 Decisions made by Manea Parish Council**

The Clerk reported that Manea Parish Council had made no decisions since the last meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee in respect of the pit and its surroundings.

It was agreed that the information reported by the Clerk be noted.

### **IMC2/15 Field adjoining Manea Pit – use as community orchard/woodland**

Further to minute PMC11/15, the Clerk informed members that Mrs P Smith had been informed by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) that her "close down" report on the project had been accepted and that, consequently, the Parish Council would be receiving from the HLF a grant aid payment of £3,150.

Miss Williams informed those present that a number of the trees at the orchard are producing fruit and that, as was intended, members of the community are taking the fruit. She added that Mr Fost had recently undertaken the clearance of undergrowth from the site and that the grass cutting works that are being undertaken are "just right" for the area. Also, it is pleasing to note that the area is not suffering any vandalism.

Mr Fost mentioned that some people are allowing their dogs to foul in the longer grass within the area and suggested that "Please clear up after your dogs" signs be purchased and installed at appropriate locations.

It was agreed that the situation be noted and that Manea Parish Council be requested to approve the purchase and installation of "Please clear up after your dogs" signs.

### **IMC3/15 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects**

Further to minute PMC12/15, those present considered the current situation regarding the maintenance of Manea Pit and its surroundings.

Further to minute PMC12/15, the Clerk reported that he had enquired of the contractor which undertakes the maintenance works to the trees owned by Manea Parish Council whether the company is able to supply bark chippings for use within the pit area and that the contractor had responded in the affirmative.

Councillor Emery mentioned that two (of the seven) interpretation boards are yet to be installed; the preferred locations for siting of these boards are on land owned by Cambridgeshire County Council; Councillor Mrs Desborough offered to discuss this matter with an officer of the County Farms Service.

Councillor Emery informed those present of his discussions with the Chairman of the Manea and Welney Internal Drainage Board regarding the suggestions of the Manea Pit Management Committee regarding piping of a dyke adjacent to the pit area. In summary, to pipe the whole length would be very costly but achieve very little benefit; the Chairman of the Manea and Welney Internal Drainage Board had suggested that it may be beneficial to pipe only a short length of the dyke, at the vehicular entrance to the pit area.

It was agreed that the situation be noted and that the Manea Pit Management Committee would give further consideration, in the light of Councillor Emery's discussions with the Chairman of the Manea and Welney Internal Drainage Board, to piping of a dyke adjacent to the pit area; the committee would also be asked to consider the erection of signage to make clear the point of vehicular access to Manea Pit (especially to assist the emergency services).

#### **IMC4/15 Manea Pit – Revision of the management plan**

Given the absence of Mrs P Smith from the meeting, no information was available regarding the progress that she had made in producing an updated version of the new management plan.

It was agreed that the situation be noted.

#### **IMC5/15 Manea Pit – Health and Safety**

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

Further to minute PMC14/15, Councillor Emery informed those present that Councillor Woodard had procured a life ring and associated rope. Mr Fost undertook to arrange installation of the life ring at an appropriate location.

It was agreed that there are no new health and safety issues at this time.

#### **IMC6/15 Fishing and other pit users' issues**

Mr I Fost handed to the Clerk the sum of £413.50 in respect of the sale of fishing tickets.

None of those present had any matters to raise in relation to use of the pit area and its surroundings.

It was agreed that the current situation be noted.

#### **IMC7/15 Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership**

Further to minute PMC16/15, Councillor Emery informed those present that the Ouse Fest event held in Manea on 25 July 2015 had been successful and that the Project Manager for the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership Scheme is very impressed with the achievements of the Manea Pit Management Committee and Manea Parish Council in the delivery of its project.

With regard to the funding for the Manea project, the Clerk reported that, based upon the claims that he had submitted, the Parish Council had so far, received a total of £8,499.62 (for Quarter 4 of 2014/5 1st Quarter 1 of 2015/16) and that he would submitting a claim soon (for Quarter 2 of 2015/16) for a further £930.80. He reminded those present that the total amount of monetary funding available to the Parish Council under the Ouse Washes scheme is £12,487.00, plus "in kind" financial support of £1,900.00 to meet the "cost" of the time given to the Manea project by community volunteers.

It is clear that there is sufficient monies available within the Ouse Washes grant funding to meet the cost of purchasing 10 fishing nets (at a cost of £16 each) for pond dipping purposes; Mr I Fost agreed to arrange purchase of the nets.

Mr I Fost provided to the Clerk, for forwarding to Project Manager for the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership Scheme, a batch of time recording sheets which had been completed by volunteers.

It was agreed that the information reported by Councillor Emery and the Clerk be noted.

**IMC8/15 Next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee be held on a date 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 8.20 pm.**

Signature:.....(Committee Chairman)

Date.....