

# MANEA PIT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

## MINUTES OF MEETING

23 FEBRUARY 2016 – 7.30 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Emery, Vice-Chairman in the Chair; Councillors Fielding and Risbridger plus Mr C Carson, Mr A Cooper, Mr I Fost, Mr R K Miller, Mr J Short and Miss M Williams.

**Apologies:** Councillors Cole and Mrs Desborough plus Mr A Clutton, Mrs P Smith and Mrs L Stevens.

In attendance: Miss Sara Marshall (Countryside and Marketing Officer for the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership scheme) and Miss Gemma Wells (RSPB) for minute PMC40/15.

The minutes of the meeting of 12 January 2016 were confirmed and signed.

### PMC34/15 Decisions made by Manea Parish Council

The Clerk reported on the decisions made by Manea Parish Council since 12 January 2016 meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee in relation to matters affecting the operation and management of Manea Pit:

(1) at its meeting on 18 January 2016 (minute M126/15 refers),

- to approve the recommendation of this committee that piping of a short length of dyke at the vehicular entrance to the pit area be undertaken (minute PMC28/15 refers) and that Councillor Cole would obtain quotations for that work
- to approve the recommendation of this committee that fees for Carp Syndicate membership and fishing tickets for 2016/17 be not increased from the 2015/16 level (minute PMC31/15 refers). In addition, Manea Parish Council decided to ask this committee to consider whether it would be appropriate and feasible to increase the membership of the Carp Syndicate from its current maximum of 30 members
- further to minutes PMC4/15 and PMC12/15, post and rail fencing be installed at a specific location in the pit area.

(2) at its meeting on 15 February 2016 (minute M139/15 refers),

- the council noted that the cost of materials for the erection of post and rail fencing would be £105.00 and that the work could be undertaken on a voluntary basis as part of a work party
- the council considered a quotation which had been obtained by Councillor Cole for the supply of the pipe work required for piping a short length of the dyke at the vehicular entrance to the pit area; in addition to the approximate cost of £1,500, the council would also need to purchase a supply of gravel and then meet labour costs. There was a general feeling among members of the Parish Council that, in terms of the benefit which would accrue, perhaps such monies could be spent better. Consequently, the council decided to ask the Manea Pit Management Committee to consider the need/benefit of piping a short length of the dyke at the vehicular entrance to the pit area.

The committee decided that the situation be noted and that it would not pursue the proposal for piping a short length of the dyke at the vehicular entrance to the pit area, as it shares the view of the council that money may be spent better on other projects (such as a means of preventing access by otters to Manea Pit (see minute PMC39/15)).

### **PMC35/15 Field adjoining Manea Pit – use as community orchard/woodland**

Miss Williams informed the committee that routine maintenance works continue and that the tree pruning works agreed at minute PMC27/15 (which would cost £60.00) had been scheduled. She mentioned also that Oak trees acquired from Manea Allotment Association had been planted on land close to the former picnic area and within the community orchard.

Miss Williams informed the committee that, to date, 148 hours of volunteer time had been spent in undertaking works at the community orchard/woodland.

Further to minute PMC27/15, Mr Carson showed the committee a plan and photographs showing his suggestions as to 8 locations within the pit area (as the woodland area is too dry) for the planting of Black Poplar trees. He explained his rationale for the locations suggested. The committee agreed to 8 locations for such tree planting; the majority of those locations accorded with the suggestions of Mr Carson.

The committee decided that the current situation be noted and that Mr Carson would arrange the planting of Black Poplar trees at the locations agreed.

### **PMC36/15 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects**

Further to minute PMC28/15, the committee considered the current situation regarding the maintenance of Manea Pit and its surroundings.

The committee acknowledges that, once an assessment has been undertaken as to the maintenance works required at Manea Pit, it is likely that materials (railway sleepers, gravel etc) would need to be purchased.

The committee decided that the situation be noted and that Councillors Cole and Fielding would, after identifying the lowest price, arrange the purchase of 12 railway sleepers.

### **PMC37/15 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.

The committee decided that the situation be noted and that the Clerk would pursue from Mrs Smith the provision of information as to how this matter could be brought to a conclusion.

### **PMC38/15 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.

### **PMC39/15 Fishing and other pit users' issues**

Mr I Fost handed to the Clerk the sum of £106.50 in respect of the sale of fishing tickets.

Mr A Cooper alerted the committee to the fact that problems are being experienced in fishing lakes, but not yet in Manea, of otters entering these areas and consuming the fish stocks. He suggested that this committee should give serious consideration to installing a means of preventing otters from being able to access Manea Pit. Such a

deterrent would consist of approximately 800 metres of mesh fencing (plus gates). Mr Cooper reported to the committee a quotation that he had obtained for the supply of the necessary materials (but not for installation costs).

The committee supports in principle the undertaking of any works necessary to prevent the loss of fish stocks but is aware, from the information reported by Mr Cooper, that the cost of such works would be considerable; such works could only proceed if the costs were met initially by Manea Parish Council and then recovered through Carp Syndicate membership fees and income from the sale of fishing tickets.

To increase the level of income to Manea Parish Council in respect of fishing activity at Manea Pit, Mr Cooper suggested that the maximum number of Carp Syndicate members be increased from 30 to 35 with effect from 1 April 2016, that the annual membership fee be increased to £150 for all members with effect from 2017/18 and that this increase be applied also to new members for 2016/17. In addition, Mr I Fost suggested that, in the interests of administrative efficiency, only season tickets be sold – not day tickets – to anglers with effect from 2016/17.

The committee decided that

- (1) the information reported by members of the committee be noted;
- (2) Mr Cooper would obtain two further quotations for the supply of the necessary materials to prevent access by otters to Manea Pit, as well as quotations for the cost of undertaking such works;
- (3) Manea Parish Council be requested to consider, at its next meeting, the quotations received ((2) above refers) and the manner in which such works could be funded;
- (4) it be RECOMMENDED to Manea Parish Council that the proposals in respect of Carp Syndicate membership and all fishing fees, as set out above, be approved.

#### **PMC40/15 Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership**

Further to minute PMC32/15, Sara Marshall, the Countryside and Marketing Officer for the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership scheme, and Gemma Wells, an officer of the RSPB, updated members of the committee on proposed activities for the OuseFest Fun Day scheduled for Saturday 23 July 2016.

Miss Marshall suggested to the committee that Manea be the venue for this year's event, with links to activities taking place at the RSPB. She mentioned some of the partnership organisations/bodies which would be involved in the event. Miss Marshall mentioned that a memorial, to be sited within the community orchard, to those who had dug the Ouse Washes by hand (for which funding of £2,000 had been provided to a community group through the small grants scheme being operated by the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership scheme), would be "unveiled" at the event.

Some members of the committee explained proposed activities for the day; Miss Williams mentioned that, as part of the event, she proposed to operate a Treasure Hunt within the woodland area.

Miss Wells outlined some of the wildlife-related activity which would be taking place at the RSPB site.

The Clerk drew the committee's attention to an e-mail, which he had circulated to all members of the committee in advance of the meeting, from Mr Mark Nokkert, the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership Programme Manager.

Within the e-mail, Mr Nokkert asked a number of questions to ascertain, given that the end of the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership scheme is approaching, what is still feasible and which project elements may need adapting, or be simplified, or perhaps scrapped altogether.

Mr Nokkert states that he needs to be provided with digital copies of all artworks/interpretation created for display in the interpretation panels, to be able to satisfy the Heritage Lottery Fund that the anticipated outcomes have been achieved.

In addition, Mr Nokkert mentions that there is still an outstanding budget heading of the interpretation and partial adaptation of the current pavilion, so that this can be used more by the local primary school as an indoor-outdoor teaching facility; a budget of £2,000 had been set aside for that purpose. He asks within his e-mail whether this element of the project is still feasible and the budget provision required; if not, he would be able, with the approval of the Project Board, to re-allocate this funding to another Ouse Washes scheme instead.

In response to a question which had been asked of Mr Nokkert by the Clerk, Mr Nokkert had stated that, in principle, it should be possible to make application for Ouse Washes funding to meet the cost of the pond dipping nets; there is currently a balance of £402.28. on the budget for the "pond dipping area" element of the project.

The committee decided that

- (1) the situation in general be noted;
- (2) Mr Nokkert be informed, by the Clerk, that it would have no objection to re-allocation to another project of the sum of £2,000 allocated currently for works to the current pavilion;
- (3) those members of the committee who had produced artworks/interpretation for display in the interpretation panels would forward to Mr Nokkert digital copies of such materials.

#### **PMC41/15 Committee membership**

The committee decided that Mrs S Woodard be invited to become a member of the Manea Pit Management Committee; Councillor Emery would contact Mrs Woodard in this regard.

#### **PMC42/15 Next meeting**

The committee decided that the next meeting be held on 22 March 2016, commencing at 7.30 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

**Meeting finished at 9.00 pm.**

Signature:.....(Committee Chairman)

Date.....