

## **MANEA PIT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**25 MAY 2016 – 7.15 pm.**

**Present:** Councillor Hirson; Chairman; Councillors Cole, Mrs Desborough and Emery plus Mr A Cooper, Mr I Fost, Mr R K Miller and Mr J Short.

**Apologies:** Mr C Carson and Mrs L Stevens.

The minutes of the meeting of 26 April 2016 were confirmed and signed.

#### **PMC1/16 Introduction by new Committee Chairman**

The new Chairman of the Manea Pit Management Committee (appointed to that position by Manea Parish Council on 23 May 2016), Councillor Hirson, introduced himself to the committee and the members of public in attendance at the meeting.

The Chairman informed those present that he would expect all attendees at meetings of the Manea Pit Management Committee to behave appropriately; he would not tolerate inappropriate comments, actions or language at meetings of the committee. It is his belief that much could be achieved by people working together in a positive and constructive way; lately, all of the comments that he had heard from members of the public in relation to Manea Pit had been the opposite of that.

The Chairman reported that Manea Parish Council had decided, at its meeting on 23 May 2016, to pursue the installation of "otter proof" fencing around Manea Pit, subject to the council undertaking all appropriate assessments and evaluations and obtaining all necessary permissions/consents (from organisations such as the Environment Agency and Natural England). Consequently, he would be allowing no discussion of that matter at this meeting of the committee.

The Chairman stated that he wished to "re-fresh" the committee and, consequently, he would be providing the opportunity later in the meeting to increase the membership of the committee.

#### **PMC2/16 Open Forum**

##### **Information relating to Manea Pit**

A parishioner expressed the opinion that there is a lack of information available to the public in relation to Manea Pit (such as survey results, grant income received, plans for management and development of the area etc) and a lack of clarity as to what activities are permitted in and around Manea Pit; the parishioner enquired as to the existence of any document which detail the activities that are permitted (or prohibited) in and around Manea Pit.

In response, the Chairman commented that the type of information sought by the public would be produced and published on the Manea Parish Council website.

The committee decided that the comments of the parishioner and the response of the Chairman be noted.

#### **PMC3/16 Decisions made by Manea Parish Council**

The Clerk reported that the only decision made by Manea Parish Council since 26 April 2016 meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee in relation to matters affecting the operation and management of Manea Pit had been the one mentioned by the Chairman at minute PMC1/16.

The committee decided that the situation be noted.

#### **PMC4/16 Field adjoining Manea Pit – use as community orchard/woodland**

Mr I Fost informed the committee that he had no update to report, except for the fact that the Parish Council's grounds maintenance contractor is undertaking the agreed grass cutting of the area and that no other specific maintenance works are required at this time; the area is generally in good order.

With the consent of the Chairman, Miss M Williams informed the committee that the tree which had been damaged in recent months is, because of the pruning works undertaken recently, expected to survive.

Councillor Emery reported on a meeting he had attended yesterday regarding the installation within the woodland area of a memorial to those who had dug (b hand) the drainage for the Ouse Washes. The outcome of the meeting was that the installation be put "on hold" until the outcome of the Parish Council's "otter proof" fencing proposal is known, as it is possible that such fencing may affect the view from the woodland area to the Ouse Washes. He mentioned that Cambridgeshire ACRE, which is administering the grant funding (from the Heritage Lottery Fund, via the Ouse washes Landscape partnership) had undertaken to reserve the financial allocation (of £2,000) for this memorial; it is possible that the level of grant awarded to the memorial project may be insufficient to meet the full cost of the project, which would then require funding from the community to meet the shortfall.

The committee decided that the current situation be noted.

#### **PMC5/16 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects**

Further to minute PMC56/15, the committee considered the current situation regarding the maintenance of Manea Pit and its surroundings.

Mr J Short informed the committee that no work parties had taken place since the last meeting of this committee but one would be arranged following acquisition of the materials necessary to undertake the maintenance works which had been discussed at minute PMC56/15. In addition to those works, Mr I Fost expressed the opinion that the footpaths would benefit from "topping up" with bark chippings; he suggested that the Community Payback Team be enlisted, as it had been on previous occasions, to undertake that particular task.

Councillor Cole expressed the hope that, because of the community's apparent increased interest in Manea Pit and its surroundings, it would be easier to attract volunteers to participate in future work parties.

The committee decided that the situation be noted and that a work party would be arranged, following the acquisition, by Councillor Cole, of the necessary materials (including railway sleepers and supplies of gravel and crushed stone).

#### **PMC6/16 Manea Pit – Revision of the management plan**

Further to minute PMC57/15, the Clerk reported that he had heard nothing since the last meeting of this committee from Mrs P Smith regarding the provision of information as to the work necessary to conclude production of the new management plan for the pit area. In the light of the situation he had reported at minute PMC57/15, he anticipates receipt very soon, from Mrs Smith, of a final version of the new Manea Pit Management Plan.

The Chairman commented that once the new plan is in the possession of this committee, it would be necessary for one of its members to assume the responsibility for monitoring delivery of its actions and managing future updates.

The committee decided that the situation be noted and that the Clerk would pursue from Mrs Smith a final version of the new Manea Pit Management Plan.

#### **PMC7/16 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.

#### **PMC8/16 Fishing and other pit users' issues**

Mr A Cooper handed to the Clerk the sum of £880.00 in respect of the payment of Carp Syndicate membership fees and Mr Fost handed to the Clerk the sum of £58.00 in respect of the sale of fishing tickets.

Mr A Cooper informed the committee that the Carp Syndicate had no matters to raise at this time. He mentioned that he would soon be in receipt of payment of two further membership fees; at that point the Carp Syndicate would possess 35 members (the maximum number of members, as agreed by Manea Parish Council).

No member of the committee was aware of matters requiring consideration at this meeting.

The committee decided that the situation be noted.

#### **PMC9/16 Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership**

Further to minute PMC60/15, the Clerk informed the committee that the application for Ouse Washes funding to meet the cost of the pond dipping nets which had been purchased by Manea Parish Council had been successful and a cheque in respect of those costs had been received by the council. The Manea project is now deemed to have been completed; there is no further quarterly reporting of progress required and all of the grant funding available to Manea Parish Council had been claimed/received.

The committee is aware that it will need to finalise at its next meeting the activities to be provided/operated at the pit area as part of this year's Ouse Fest event (minute PMC40/15 refers).

Councillor Emery informed the committee that, given the situation described at minute PMC4/16, the unveiling of the memorial to those who had dug the Ouse Washes would no longer feature as part of this year's Ouse Fest event at Manea.

The committee decided that the situation be noted.

#### **PMC10/16 Committee terms of reference and membership**

Further to minute PMC1/16, the Chairman read to those present the terms of reference, adopted by Manea Parish Council in June 2014, of the Manea Pit Management Committee. He expressed the hope that his action had made clear the roles and responsibilities of the committee, its composition and its link to Manea Parish Council and also that, from this point onwards, the community would engage more with the work of the committee.

The Chairman then invited from those members of the public in attendance at the meeting any expressions of interest in becoming a member of this committee and sharing its workload. He mentioned

that the committee ought to include persons who are able to contribute particular skills or attributes which are pertinent to the issues which the committee needs to consider or who are able to represent particular groups or interests within the local community.

The committee decided that the information reported and comments made by the Chairman be noted and that the following persons be appointed to membership of the Manea Pit Management Committee:

- Mrs L Eves (representing the youth of the village)
- Mr S Payne (representing the general community)
- Mrs J Ramsay (representing toddler age children)
- Mr G Simpson (representing Manea Residents Association)
- Miss M Williams (expertise in managing the community woodland/orchard)

**PMC11/16 Next meeting**

The committee decided that the next meeting be held on 6 July 2016, commencing at 7.15 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

**Meeting finished at 8.40 pm.**

Signature:.....(Committee Chairman)

Date.....