

# MANEA PIT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

## MINUTES OF MEETING

26 APRIL 2016 – 7.30 pm.

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

**Apologies:** Mrs L Stevens.

The minutes of the meeting of 22 March 2016 were confirmed and signed.

### PMC52/15 Open Forum

A number of members of the Carp Syndicate attended the meeting to inform the committee of their support for the installation of fencing around Manea Pit to prevent access to the area by otters (minute M152/15 refers) and of the information that the Carp Syndicate proposes to display, to "evidence" the need for such an installation, at the public meeting which is being arranged by those parishioners who oppose this proposal.

A number of the members of the committee made comments in relation to the opinions which had been expressed by the members of the carp Syndicate.

The committee decided that the comments of the members of the Carp Syndicate and certain members of the committee be noted.

### PMC53/15 Committee membership

Further to minute PMC41/15, the committee welcomed Mrs S Woodard to her first meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee.

The Clerk reported to the committee the resignations - because of the proposal to install "otter proof" fencing around the pit area - of Mrs P Smith and Miss M Williams.

The committee noted the situation.

### PMC54/15 Decisions made by Manea Parish Council

The Clerk reported on the decision made by Manea Parish Council since 23 February 2016 meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee in relation to matters affecting the operation and management of Manea Pit.

At its meeting on 18 April 2016 (minute M167/15 refers) the council had decided, having listened to the opinions expressed and comments made by a number of parishioners who oppose the proposal (minute M160/15 (1) refers), to defer until its next meeting (on 23 May 2016) a decision on whether to proceed with the installation of "otter proof" fencing at Manea Pit.

### **PMC55/15 Field adjoining Manea Pit – use as community orchard/woodland**

Following the decision of Miss Williams to resign her membership of this committee (minute PMC53/15 refers) and to no longer participate in maintenance of the community orchard/woodland, Mr I Fost had volunteered to take on the responsibility for leading, on behalf of the community, the maintenance and development of this facility.

Mr Fost had collected from Miss Williams, as she had requested, the mower and other items associated with the maintenance of the community orchard/woodland. In addition, Mr Fost had cut the grass.

The committee decided

- (1) that the current situation be noted;
- (2) to express its thanks to Mr Fost for taking on the role which had been performed by Miss Williams;
- (3) that Mr Fost would arrange for the proprietor of the Manea School of Gardening to undertake an assessment of the community orchard/woodland and to make recommendations as to any maintenance works required.

### **PMC56/15 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects**

Further to minute PMC46/15, the committee considered the current situation regarding the maintenance of Manea Pit and its surroundings.

The committee is of the opinion that there are no immediate maintenance issues at Manea Pit, merely the need to keep "on top" of the general condition of the area. Some specific works were mentioned, including repairs needed to at least one of the fishing platforms and action to address the erosion of some of the banks.

Mr Fost commented that it is still necessary to acquire the necessary materials for the maintenance works and he enquired as to progress in that regard.

Mr A Clutton informed the committee that The Royal Horticultural Society and Anglia in Bloom had presented Manea Pit with a 2015 "It's Your Neighbourhood Award Level 5 - Outstanding" award. He handed to the Clerk the certificate in that regard.

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 12 to 15 railway sleepers and supplies of gravel and crushed stone).

### **PMC57/15 Manea Pit – Revision of the management plan**

Further to minute PMC47/15, the Clerk reported that he had pursued from Mrs P Smith the provision of information as to the work necessary to conclude production of the new management plan for the pit area. In response, Mrs Smith states that there is still has a small amount of work required by her to conclude production of the new management plan; she would undertake this work within the next few weeks and then forward the document to the Clerk.

The committee decided that the situation be noted.

### **PMC58/15 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.

### **PMC59/15 Fishing and other pit users' issues**

Mr A Cooper handed to the Clerk the sum of £2,490.00 in respect of the payment of Carp Syndicate membership fees and Mr Fost handed to the Clerk the sum of £271.00 in respect of the sale of fishing tickets.

Further to minute PMC49/15, Councillor Fielding had arranged for a meeting on site between the contractor which had submitted the lowest quotation for the installation of "otter proof" fencing around Manea Pit and certain members of the Manea Pit Management Committee to discuss the matter. As a result of that meeting, a revised (still the lowest) quotation had been provided by the contractor. At its meeting on 18 April 2016 the Parish Council had considered how to proceed in this matter (minute M167/15 refers).

Councillor Emery summarised the comments which had been made by parishioners at 18 April 2016 meeting of Manea Parish Council and commented that he had explained at that meeting the process which had been followed by the council to date, including the obtaining of quotations for the work; in addition, he had reminded the parishioners in attendance that members of Manea Parish Council had been elected by the community to make decisions on behalf of parishioners and that there is no requirement for the council to seek public endorsement to its decision-making. He expressed the opinion that the Parish Council needs to be able to ensure that parishioners understand the council's rationale for proposing the installation of "otter proof" fencing; that being to protect a council asset.

Councillor Emery read to the committee details of the income and expenditure for each financial year (since acquisition of Manea Pit in 2019/10) in relation to Manea Pit. He had reported this information at 18 April 2016 meeting of Manea Parish Council.

Councillor Emery informed the committee that Manea Parish Council had supported, at the meeting held on 18 April 2016, his proposal that that a decision on this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the council (on 23 May 2016), to provide the local community with the opportunity to hold a public meeting prior to any decision being made by the council. The council would take into account the outcome of the public meeting when making a decision at its 23 May 2016 meeting.

Mr C Carson reminded the committee of the comments he had made at the last meeting in relation to the need to protect both the current inhabitants of the pit area and otters (minute PMC43/15 refers). He then expressed his concerns that the pit is, in his opinion, being seen primarily as a Carp fishery and that the Parish Council's main focus in this matter appears to be to continue to generate income through fishing activities at Manea Pit.

Mr Carson expressed the opinion that otters would inevitably discover Manea Pit; in fact, he is surprised that this had not happened already.

The committee decided that the situation be noted.

### **PMC60/15 Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership**

Further to minute PMC50/15, Councillor Emery reported to the committee that Mrs S Woodard had provided to Mr Mark Nakkert, the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership Programme Manager, photographs of the content of each of the interpretation boards relating to this project.

The Clerk informed the committee that, in accordance with the decision at minute PMC50/15, he had submitted, earlier this month, the progress report for quarter 4 of the financial year 2015/16 and an application for Ouse Washes

funding to meet the cost of the pond dipping nets which had been purchased by Manea Parish Council. He had been informed by that this application had been successful.

The committee is aware that it will need to agree, at a future meeting (possibly at the next one), the activities that would be provided/operated at the pit areas as part of this year's Ouse Fest event (minute PMC40/15 refers).

The committee decided that the situation be noted.

**PMC51/15 Next meeting**

The committee decided that the next meeting be held on 25 May 2016, commencing at 7.15 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

**Meeting finished at 8.30 pm.**

Signature:.....(Committee Chairman)

Date.....