

MANEA PIT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

6 JULY 2016 – 7.15 pm.

Present: Councillor Hirson; Chairman; Councillors Cole, Mrs Desborough, Emery and Fielding plus Mr C Barnes, Mrs R Carrington, Mr C Carson, Mr A Clutton, Mr A Cooper, Mrs L Eves, Mr M Hindry, Mr R K Miller, Mr S Payne, Mrs J Ramsay, Mr C Scott, Mr J Short, Mr G Simpson, Miss M Williams and Mrs S Woodard.

Apologies: Mr I Fost, and Mrs L Stevens.

The minutes of the meeting of 25 May 2016 were confirmed and signed.

PMC12/16 Introduction by Committee Chairman

The Chairman reminded those present that he expects 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.

The committee decided that the comments of the Chairman be noted and acted upon.

PMC13/16 Election of additional committee members

The Chairman 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 following persons be appointed to membership of the Manea Pit Management Committee and to assume that membership with immediate effect:

- Mr C Barnes (former member of Manea Parish Council and a previous Chairman of this committee)
- Mrs R Carrington (user of Manea Pit for exercise)
- Mr M Hindry (experience of woodland management)
- Mr C Scott (user of the pit for various activities).

PMC14/16 Introduction by committee members

The Chairman invited each member of the committee, in turn, to introduce him/herself to the other members of the committee and to explain why they wish to participate in the operation and management of Manea Pit and to explain the experience, skill, knowledge or ambition that they could bring to the work of this committee.

The committee decided that the comments made by its members be noted.

PMC15/16 Decisions made by Manea Parish Council

The Clerk reported that the only decision made by Manea Parish Council since 25 May 2016 meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee in relation to matters affecting the operation and management of Manea Pit was to appoint, at its meeting on 20 June 2016, Councillor Fielding as one of its representatives on this committee.

The Clerk mentioned also that he had updated Manea Parish Council at its 20 June 2016 meeting on the situation at that time regarding the possible installation of "otter proof" fencing around Manea Pit. He read to the committee the Parish Council minute (M24/16) relating to that update.

The committee decided that the situation be noted.

PMC16/16 Field adjoining Manea Pit – use as community orchard/woodland

Further to minute PMC4/16, the Chairman informed the committee that there appears to be some difference of opinion within the community with regard to recent maintenance works which had been undertaken at the community orchard/woodland; he referred to an e-mail that he had received from Miss M Williams in that regard.

The Chairman suggested that, in an effort to achieve a harmonious approach to the future maintenance of the community orchard/woodland, a community group be formed to produce a maintenance regime and operational management plan, for consideration by this committee.

The committee decided that a community group be formed to produce a maintenance regime and operational management plan for the community orchard/woodland and to report to the next meeting of this committee on progress in that regard.

PMC17/16 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects

Further to minute PMC5/16, the committee considered the current situation regarding the maintenance of Manea Pit and its surroundings.

Mr J Short informed the committee that work parties had taken place since the last meeting of this committee.

Comments were made by some members of the committee that there is very little publicity/information available to the public as to the dates and times of work parties. In response, the Chairman expressed the opinion that, to enable a greater level of community participation, members of the public need to be made aware of the dates and times of work parties and that there needs to be a longer period of advance notice given and details of the maintenance and improvement activities proposed for each work party. He suggested that a timetable (say, alternate Wednesdays) be agreed by the current "core group" of work party members and publicised within the village (using all appropriate media); such timetable to be presented to the next meeting of this committee.

Councillor Emery informed the committee that Councillor Cole had, in accordance with minute PMC5/16, acquired the necessary materials (including railway sleepers and supplies of gravel and crushed stone) to facilitate the maintenance works. He commented that, because of the extremely competitive price at which the railway sleepers had been purchased, the committee may wish to consider the purchase at this time, in readiness for future maintenance works at Manea Pit, of additional railway sleepers.

The committee decided that

- (1) situation in general be noted;
- (2) a timetable of future work parties be agreed by the current "core group" of work party members and publicised within the village (using all appropriate media); such timetable to be presented to the next meeting of this committee;
- (3) Councillor Cole would arrange the purchase of 20 additional railway sleepers.

Post meeting note: Work parties meetings were subsequently arranged for each Wednesday in July 2016 (to commence at 6.00 pm). This information was provided to members of the committee, by the Clerk, by e-mail on 7 July 2016.

PMC18/16 Manea Pit – Revision of the management plan

Further to minute PMC6/16, the Chairman mentioned that he had received, by e-mail, from Mrs P Smith, the latest version of the new management plan for the pit area. He had forwarded to members of the committee, by e-mail, in advance of the meeting, a copy of the plan document (but not all of the appendices); in addition, he handed out copies of the document to those who had not been members of the committee prior to today's meeting.

The Chairman referred to certain elements of the plan, particularly its four stated objectives, and commented that, given the time that had been taken to get to this stage of plan production and things that had happened during that time, some of the content of the plan is no longer correct. Although the Manea Pit Management Plan should be a "living" document it needs to be accurate in its content at the time of its adoption by Manea Parish Council.

The committee decided that

- (1) the situation in general be noted;
- (2) the Clerk would circulate, by e-mail, to all members of the committee, all of the information which had been provided by Mrs P Smith (i.e. the plan document and all of its appendices);
- (3) each member of the committee would examine the content of the plan and its appendices and then forward their comments to the Clerk, for consideration at the next meeting of this committee.

PMC19/16 Manea Pit – Health and Safety

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

Mrs L Eves expressed the opinion that there is a need for measures to be in place to "protect" those members of the committee who would be engaging with children and young people. She mentioned that she had been provided, by the Clerk, with a copy of Manea Parish Council's Child Protection Policy, which she considers would not provide her with sufficient "protection" as a volunteer. She suggested that, for the protection of all individuals (and members of the Parish Council) who may come into contact with older children, DBS checks of such persons should be undertaken.

Mrs Eves commented also that although the Insurance policy possessed by the Parish Council protects volunteers against accidents, it does not provide legal protection/support in the event that a member of the public were to make an allegation or take legal action against a volunteer.

Councillor Emery mentioned that one of the crossing points at the pit requires wire mesh to be affixed to the structure and the provision of a handrail to improve its safety; he commented that the same situation applies to the crossing point adjacent to the picnic area. He suggested that this work be undertaken as part of a work party.

The committee decided that the situation in general be noted and that

- (1) Mr A Clutton would investigate the requirement for DBS checks to undertaken in respect of persons working (in a paid or voluntary role) with children and/or vulnerable adults;
- (2) the Parish Council be requested to consider the production of a Safeguarding Policy for the council and reviewing its insurance policy (with a view to including the cover suggested by Mrs Eves).

PMC20/16 Finance review

The Chairman proposed that, given the amount of time which had been taken in dealing with other items on the agenda for this meeting, this item of business be deferred to the next meeting of the committee.

The committee decided that this item of business be deferred to the next meeting of the committee.

PMC21/16 Fishing and other pit users' issues

Mr R K Miller handed to the Clerk the sum of £128.50 in respect of the sale of fishing tickets.

Mr A Cooper expressed the opinion that there is no longer a sufficient number of bailiffs to deal with the sale of fishing tickets for Manea Pit and that the situation needs to be addressed

The committee decided that the situation in general be noted and that the offer of Mr C Scott to act as a bailiff be accepted.

PMC22/16 Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership

Further to minute PMC9/16, Councillor Emery informed the committee that Councillor Mrs Desborough, the Clerk and he had met, on 16 June 2015 with two officers of the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership project team to finalise the arrangements for the Manea Ouse Fest Day (on 23 July 2016). He outlined to the committee some of the activities which would take place at Manea; these include fishing demonstrations, a photographic activity, bouncy castle, face

painting, craft workshop, guided walk around Manea Pit, refreshments; there would also be a shuttle bus service running between Manea and the RSPB site at Welney. Promotional material for the event would be produced by officers of the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership project team, who would also be distributing leaflets around the village in advance of the event.

The committee decided that the situation be noted.

PMC23/16 Next meeting

The committee decided that the next meeting be held on 10 August 2016, commencing at 7.15 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

Meeting finished at 9.10 pm.

Signature:.....(Committee Chairman)

Date.....