

MANEA PIT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

NOTES OF (INQUORATE) MEETING

7 SEPTEMBER 2016 – 7.15 pm.

Present: Councillor Hirson; Chairman; Councillor Emery plus Mr C Barnes, Mrs R Carrington, Mr C Carson, Mr A Cooper, Mrs L Eves, Mr I Fost, Mr R K Miller, Mr S Payne, Mrs J Ramsay, Mr C Scott, Mr J Short, Miss M Williams and Mrs S Woodard.

Apologies: Councillors Cole and Mrs Desborough plus Mr M Hindry, Mr G Simpson and Mrs L Stevens.

The minutes of the meeting of 10 August 2016 were confirmed and signed.

IMC1/16 Chairman's announcement - deaths of Carp

The Chairman informed those present that he proposed to undertake the public participation element of the meeting at the end, as opposed to the beginning, on the basis that he believes that the majority of questions from members of the public would relate to the situation regarding the deaths of Carp at Manea Pit, which would be explained during the meeting.

The Chairman stated that he is not happy that certain members of the Manea Pit Management Committee are making "unhelpful" comments, including making inappropriate remarks about other members of the committee, on social media. He stated that if such activity continues, he would remove the "offenders" from membership of Manea Pit Management Committee.

Further to minute PMC24/16, the Chairman updated those present on the situation regarding the deaths of Carp at Manea Pit.

The Chairman informed those present that, as a result of the examinations of fish undertaken by the Environment Agency (EA) and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), Manea Pit has a confirmed Koi Herpes Virus (KHV) Disease outbreak. He commented that research shows that 99.99% of outbreaks of this disease are caused by contaminated fishing equipment being used and he expressed the opinion that this is the likely cause of the outbreak at Manea Pit; he added that the important factor is not to look to attribute blame but to address the issue. He mentioned that Manea Pit is now shown on the National Fisheries website as a having a "Confirmed Designation". On the advice of the EA and CEFAS Manea Pit remains closed for fishing.

The Chairman informed those present that CEFAS had stated that in cases where a fishing lake has suffered KHV, there should be no movement of fish into or out of the water for a period of four years. With regard to the use of that area of water for fishing, such use could commence once a period of two weeks had elapsed following cessation of the deaths of fish. In addition, for fishing to re-commence at Manea Pit, it would be necessary to put in place biosecurity measures (to enable anglers to "sanitise" their fishing equipment). The Chairman explained briefly his understanding of what would be required in that regard (in summary, "water tanks" containing "disinfectant").

The Chairman commented that there are, at this time, two issues to be considered; when fishing activities should re-commence at Manea Pit and the possible refund of part of the membership fees paid to Manea parish Council by the Carp Syndicate for 2016/17.

Mr A Cooper stated that members of the Carp Syndicate have no wish to undertake fishing activities at Manea Pit until the next fishing year, i.e. April 2017; this would give the surviving Carp a sufficient period of time to re-gain their strength. Those present feel that this is a logical approach and are of the opinion that such a situation should apply to all fishing activity at Manea Pit and not only to Carp fishing.

The Chairman responded to questions asked by attendees.

It was agreed that the information reported by the Chairman be noted and that

- 1) he would acquire, from CEFAS, signage - to be install at Manea Pit - stating that Manea Pit is closed for fishing purposes (to have effect until April 2017) and arrange for such notification to be publicised via the Manea Matters publication and the Manea Parish Council website;
- 2) he would obtain further details of the biosecurity measures required and the cost of such;
- 3) he would seek to achieve attendance at the next meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee of a representative of the EA or CEFAS to give advice in relation to fisheries management;
- 4) Mr A Cooper would, following consultation with members of the Carp Syndicate, inform Manea Parish Council (via the Clerk) of the syndicate's request in terms of any refund of fees for the financial year 2016/17.

IMC2/16 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.

IMC3/16 Field adjoining Manea Pit – use as community orchard/woodland

Further to minute PMC26/16, it was mentioned that maintenance work continues to be undertaken on the first and third Sundays of each month.

Mrs L Eves enquired as to the arrangements for disposal of waste materials resulting from the maintenance work undertaken and as to whether there had been removal of the dead Carp which a person unknown had buried within the orchard/woodland area.

With regard to the disposal of waste materials, the opinion of those present was that composting of those materials would be the most effective means.

With regard the dead Carp, it is assumed that they had been "removed" by animals which access the area.

The Clerk reported an e-mail from Mr M Hindry, enquiring as to any progress with the provision of a Hide and benching and requesting permission to purchase a supply of compost.

It was agreed that the current situation be noted and that

- 1) the offer of the Chairman to acquire appropriate containers for compostable materials be accepted;
- 2) the issues raised by Mr Hindry (via e-mail) be discussed at the next meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee.

IMC4/16 Wildlife at Manea Pit

The Chairman invited all present to share with others details of any wildlife that they had witnessed within the pit and the woodland/orchard area.

Further to minute PMC27/16, Mr C Carson informed those present that some of Barn Owl eggs had hatched.

It was suggested by one person present that consideration should be given to the provision of a number of Bat boxes within the pit area and that youngsters living in the village should be invited to construct the boxes (using materials to be provided by the Manea Pit Management Committee).

It was agreed that the situation in general be noted and that the Manea Pit Management Committee be requested to pursue the suggestion that an initiative whereby youngsters living in the village would construct Bat boxes for provision within the pit area.

IMC5/16 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects

Further to minute PMC28/16, those present considered the current situation regarding the maintenance of Manea Pit and its surroundings.

Given the current issues affecting the pit area (minute IMC1/16 refers), no work parties had take place since the last meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee.

No maintenance works additional to those mentioned at minute PMC28/16 were identified by those present.

It was agreed that the current situation be noted.

IMC6/16 Manea Pit – Revision of the management plan

Further to minute PMC29/16, those present considered again the final draft version of the new Manea Pit Management Plan.

Some members of those present expressed the opinion that the plan should be recommended by the Manea Pit Management Committee to Manea Parish Council for adoption without delay.

It was agreed that the final version of the Manea Pit Management Plan should be recommended by the Manea Pit Management Committee to Manea Parish Council (for adoption).

IMC7/16 Manea Pit – Health and Safety

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

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

IMC8/16 Fishing and other pit users' issues

Mr I Fost handed to the Clerk the sum of £37.50 in respect of the sale of fishing tickets.

No members of the committee had any matters to raise under this agenda item. The main concern currently is the issue mentioned at minute IMC1/16.

It was agreed that the situation be noted.

IMC9/16 Public participation

Questions were asked by a very small number of members of the public; these related to attendees at work parties, the current situation with regard to the Parish Council's proposal to install "otter proof" fencing around the pit area and further clarification of some of the points made at minute IMC1/16.

The Chairman responded to all of the questions asked.

IMC10/16 Next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee be held on 20 October 2016, to commence at 7.15 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

Meeting finished at 8.50 pm.

Signature:.....(Committee Chairman)

Date.....