

MANEA PIT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

NOTES OF (INQUORATE) MEETING

12 JANUARY 2017 – 7.15 pm.

Present: Councillor Hirson; Chairman; Councillor Emery plus Mrs R Carrington, Mr C Carson, Mr A Cooper, Mr I Fost, Mr S Payne, Mrs J Ramsay and Mr C Scott.

Apologies: Councillors Cole and Mrs Desborough plus Mrs L Eves, Mr M Hindry, Mr J Short and Mrs L Stevens.

The minutes of the meeting of 20 October 2016 were confirmed and signed.

IMC11/16 Decisions made by Manea Parish Council

The Chairman informed attendees that Manea Parish Council had decided, at its 12 December 2016 meeting (minute M107/16 refers) - in the knowledge that the necessary biosecurity measures had been put in place and the fact that CEFAS had given approval to fishing activities re-commencing at Manea Pit - to declare formally that fishing activities at Manea Pit had re-commenced. He mentioned that although fishing activities had re-commenced, the four years ban on the movement of fish into or out of the water (minute IMC1/16refers) remains in force.

The Clerk reported on the two other decisions reached by Manea Parish Council at its 12 December 2016 meeting; those being:

- (1) in relation to a request that the two interpretation boards which are in the council's possession which had not yet been installed in the Manea Pit area be erected in the community orchard/woodland, the Chairman of the Manea Pit Management Committee would inform the member of the committee who made the request that two interpretation boards which he believed were "spare" are not available for installation in the orchard/woodland as they are to be installed at locations between the school and the pit (on County Farms land), as they were funded as part of the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership project and not through monies provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund for the creation of a community orchard/woodland.
- (2) with regard to a wish to provide a "formal" community orchard/woodland sign (with pupils at Manea Community Primary School being involved in the design of the sign), Manea Community Primary School be invited to submit to the Parish Council a formal application (detailing what would be produced and at what cost) for funding towards the cost of such a sign.

With regard to (1) above, Councillor Emery mentioned that Mrs Stevens would be providing content one of the two boards and that content is needed for the other; these boards would be installed once weather conditions improve.

With regard to (2) above, Mrs Ramsay explained that sign for the orchard/woodland area is not a project being led by the school; it is being suggested by the woodland group, which wishes to involve pupils at the school in the design of the sign.

It was agreed that the information reported be noted and that progress on installation and providing content for the two interpretation boards be reviewed in two meetings' time.

PMC12/16 Community orchard/woodland project

The Clerk read to attendees an e-mail from Mr Hindry, providing an update on the community orchard/woodland area. In his e-mail, Mr Hindry states that the request to the Woodland Trust for a pack of plants had been successful

and that the plants are due for delivery during the week commencing 6 March. The plants are to be used to thicken some areas in the hedgerow and replace a number of plants which had died, particularly in the Hazel Copse.

Mr Hindry, therefore, proposes that, subject to delivery of the plants and weather conditions, a work party be arranged for the weekend 11 -12 March for planting activities, preceded by a work party over the weekend 25 -26 February to prepare the areas for planting; volunteers would be needed for both weekends.

One attendee mentioned that Mr Hindry is still examining possible locations to site benches (minute PMC 37/16 refers). Councillor Emery informed those present that the Parish Council possesses two "spare" benches which could be installed once locations had been agreed.

Further to minute PMC35/15, Mr Carson mentioned that he had planted 12 Black Poplar trees around Manea Pit.

It was agreed that the current situation be noted.

IMC13/16 Wildlife at Manea Pit

Further to minute PMC27/15, Mr Carson mentioned that work had been undertaken to reduce (by around three feet) the height of the pole to which the Owl box is affixed; in addition, roofing felt had been affixed to the box and shavings had been placed inside.

Further to minute IMC4/16, Mr Carson mentioned that he is working on a design for Bat boxes which is inexpensive and robust; it should be possible to construct each box for less than £10.00; it is proposed that pupils at Manea Community Primary School and attendees at Manea Youth Club would be involved in the construction process.

The Chairman reported the alleged sighting of an otter in Manea Pit, in the "Apple tree swim", and he asked Mr Carson to explain the traits of otters in terms of their habitats. In response, Mr Carson informed those present that otters tend to find fisheries and lakes which are in close proximity to waterways; they are not likely to travel large distances across land. In addition, to assist attendees in identifying otters, Mr Carson explained the respective physical characteristics of otters and mink. In addition, he mentioned a training/learning event, part of which would relate to otters, which would take place on 19 and 22 April 2017.

Another attendee at the meeting mentioned that a Kingfisher had been seen at Manea Pit.

It was agreed that the situation be noted.

IMC14/16 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects

Further to minute IMC5/16, attendees considered the current situation regarding the maintenance of Manea Pit and its surroundings.

No new matters requiring attention were identified.

It was agreed that the current situation be noted.

IMC15/16 Manea Pit – Management plan

No attendee had any issues to raise in respect of the new Manea Pit Management Plan.

PMC16/16 Manea Pit – Health and Safety

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

One attendee at the meeting mentioned the need to make "non-slip" one of the crossing points at Manea Pit. In response, Councillor Emery commented that the necessary work (affixing wire mesh to the structure) is already on the committee's "to do list" (minute PMC19/16 refers) and would be undertaken as part of a future work party, which would take place when weather conditions improve.

It was agreed that the current situation be noted.

IMC17/16 Fishing and other pit users' issues

The biosecurity measures (explained by one member of the Carp Syndicate) which had been installed are being used by anglers and it is now necessary to purchase a further supply of the sanitising chemical.

Mr A Cooper handed to the Clerk the sum of £1,667.50 in respect of the members of the Carp Syndicate who have re-commenced fishing at Manea Pit. Mr Cooper informed those present that the Carp Syndicate had no issues to raise at this time.

Mr Foster mentioned that a couple of the season ticket holders for coarse fishing had commented - in fact one had been very abusive towards the staff at the Londis shop (at which tickets can be purchased) in that regard - that they had expected to receive a refund of fees paid.

The Chairman read to those in attendance an e-mail from the operator of an angling club at Wimblington, who states that he is looking to manage more fishing lakes and is enquiring as to whether Manea Parish Council is seeking new management of Manea Pit. In his e-mail, the operator of the angling club at Wimblington explains the improvement/development work which had been undertaken at Wimblington and the levels of club membership.

Those in attendance at the meeting are of the opinion that, given the distinct nature of the pit and its surroundings, Manea Pit should not be managed by a third party and that the offer received to manage Manea Pit be rejected.

Mr Foster mentioned the need for Manea Pit Management Committee to consider and make recommendations to Manea Parish Council (as it does each year) in relation to Carp Syndicate membership and other fishing fees for the financial year 2017/18.

It was agreed that the situation in general be noted and that

- (1) the Chairman would procure a further supply of the chemical required for the biosecurity measures at Manea Pit;
- (2) Carp Syndicate membership and other fishing fees for 2017/18 be discussed at the next meeting of Manea Pit Management Committee.

IMC18/16 Next meeting

Those in attendance decided that the next meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee be held on 16 February 2017, to commence at 7.15 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

Meeting finished at 8.40 pm.

Signature:.....(Committee Chairman)

Date.....