

MANEA PIT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

16 FEBRUARY 2017 – 7.15 pm.

Present: Councillor Hirson; Chairman; Councillors Cole, Mrs Desborough, Emery plus Mrs R Carrington, Mr C Carson, Mr A Clutton, Mr A Cooper, Mrs L Eves, Mr I Fost, Mr M Hindry, Mr R K Miller, Mr S Payne, Mrs J Ramsay, Mr C Scott and Mr J Short.

Apologies: Councillor Fielding and Mrs L Stevens.

The notes of the inquorate meeting of 12 January 2017 were agreed as an accurate record of that meeting.

PMC44/16 Decisions made by Manea Parish Council

The Clerk informed the committee that Manea Parish Council had made no decisions in relation to Manea Pit and its surroundings since the last meeting of this committee, except to note (at minute M119/16) the content of the notes of the inquorate meeting of 12 January 2017.

The committee decided that the situation be noted.

PMC45/16 Community orchard/woodland project

Mr M Hindry reported to the committee as follows:

- (1) the request to the Woodland Trust for a pack of plants had been successful and the plants are due for delivery between 6 and 10 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. One work party has been arranged for the weekend 11 and 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
- (2) further to minute PMC37/16, he would like to progress his proposal for the installation of five "simple" benches – not the traditional "ornamental" style of bench (such as the two "spare" benches owned by Manea Parish Council) – at a number of locations in the orchard/woodland area. He informed the committee of the locations that he feels would be appropriate and that the total cost of purchasing the benches would be of the order of £250. Mr Hindry requested that the committee approves in principle this proposal
- (3) further to minute IMC11/16, staff at Manea Community Primary School are happy for pupils to be involved in the production of a sign for the orchard/woodland and Mr Hindry would report to the next meeting of the committee on a design and cost
- (4) he would like to be able to display information regarding the community orchard/woodland and sought the views of the committee as to how this could be achieved
- (5) the annual pruning of trees (minute PMC37/16 refers) would be undertaken in the near future and that the contractor who would be undertaking the work is happy to provide the opportunity for volunteers to learn how to undertake such work; as soon as the date is known, Mr Hindry would "spread the word"
- (6) with regard to minute IMC12/16, he would like information (locations of the trees and the maintenance regime) regarding the 12 Black Poplar trees which had been planted around Manea Pit by Mr Carson.

Mr Carson responded to the request of Mr Hindry at (5) above.

The committee decided that the comments of MR Hindry be noted and

- (1) that one of the two "spare" interpretation boards be used to "house" information relating to the community orchard/woodland;
- (2) to RECOMMEND to Manea Parish Council that a sum of £250.00 be allocated for the purchase of 5 "simple" benches.

PMC46/16 Wildlife at Manea Pit

Further to minute IMC13/16, Mr Carson updated the committee on his proposal for the manufacture and installation of bat boxes that he had produced a design for the boxes which would be inexpensive and robust; it should be possible to construct each box for less than £10.00; it is proposed that pupils young people within the village would be involved in the construction process.

Since minute IMC13/16 Mr Carson had met with the member of staff at Young People March who operates Manea Youth Club; she is keen to involve the youngsters in the project.

With regard to delivery of the project, Mr Carson's idea is that the materials would be cut to size by him and the young people would screw them together at one of the Youth Club meetings. If it could be arranged with Young People March, some of the youngsters could also be involved in affixing them at suitable sites.

As the materials for each box would cost about £10.00, Mr Carson is hopeful that the committee would recommend to Manea Parish Council that a sum of £100.00, would cover the cost of constructing 10 boxes, be approved for that purpose. He also considers that it would be appropriate to request the Parish Council to allocate a further £50.00 to meet the cost of materials for replacing/providing approximately 20 nest boxes of different types in the area. Once again, young people could be involved in the manufacturing process.

One member of the committee mentioned that a member of the public had seen a pair of Kingfishers at Manea Pit.

The committee decided that the information reported be noted and that it be RECOMMENDED to Manea Parish Council that a sum of £150.00 be allocated to meet the cost of purchasing materials for the manufacture of bat and bird boxes.

PMC47/16 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects

Further to minute IMC14/16, the committee considered the current situation regarding the maintenance of Manea Pit and its surroundings.

No new matters requiring attention were identified by the committee.

The committee decided that the current situation be noted and that, to determine future maintenance requirements, an inspection of Manea Pit and its surroundings be undertaken by members of the committee on 11 March 2017 (to commence at 9.30 am).

PMC4816 Manea Pit – Management plan

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

The Chairman mentioned that it would be necessary to include within the plan the locations of the bat boxes (minute PMC46/16 refers) and the Black Poplars and the arrangements for their management/maintenance (minute PMC45/16 refers).

Councillor Emery reminded the committee that it is still necessary for the new management Plan to be signed-off formally by Manea Parish Council.

The committee decided that the situation be noted and that the Chairman would be responsible for referring the new Management Plan to Manea Parish Council and for updating the document as changes occur.

PMC49/16 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 known new health and safety issues at this time but would assess the situation as part of the inspection of Manea Pit and its surroundings (minute PMC47/16 refers).

PMC50/16 Fishing and other pit users' issues

In response to a question from Mr Hindry as to arrangements for litter-picking at Manea Pit and its surroundings, Mr Clutton commented that Manea Street Pride group would begin its activities for 2017 on 4 March and that litter-picking at Manea Pit and its surroundings would be included in such activity.

Mr Fost 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, because of the part-year closure of Manea Pit for fishing activities, a refund of fees paid; he sought the view of the committee as to whether refunds should be made to those who make such a request.

In response to a question from Mrs L Eves, the Chairman stated that, although no such works had been undertaken to date, the Parish Council's decision to install "otter proof" fencing at Manea Pit remains "live". Mr Carson expressed the opinion that the approach currently adopted by the Parish Council regarding delivery of the project accords with the latest guidance/advice produced by the relevant agencies.

The Chairman referred to the success of the Ouse Fest event in Manea in July of last year (minute PMC33/16 refers) and expressed the opinion that, even if Cambridgeshire ACRE is not able to deliver/fund Ouse Fest events beyond 2016, such an event - to promote/publicise Manea Pit and the community orchard/woodland - should be organised on behalf of Manea Parish Council by this committee.

Further to minute IMC17/16, the committee considered the setting of fees for Carp Syndicate membership and fishing tickets for 2017/18. The committee took into account the following factors:

- the current economic circumstances
- current level of membership of the Carp Syndicate
- the impact upon fish stocks of the Koi Herpes Virus (KHV) Disease outbreak at Manea Pit in 2016
- the level of income that is generated currently
- the need to be able to continue to fund maintenance of the area

The committee decided

- (1) that the information reported and comments made by certain members of the committee be noted;
- (2) to RECOMMEND to Manea Parish Council that fees for Carp Syndicate membership and fishing tickets for the 2017/18 be not increased from the level set for 2016/17 and that fishing tickets for anglers aged below 16 years be free-of-charge; approval of this recommendation would result in fees for 2017/18 being:

- £120.00 for annual membership of the Carp Syndicate (the fee would have been at the level of £150, as had been agreed at minute M152/15 (based upon this committee's recommendation at minute PMC39/15) had the "otter proof" fencing been in place)
- £27.50 for an annual fishing season ticket
- £16.50 for a concessionary rate annual season ticket
- £5.50 for a day fishing ticket
- free-of-charge for anglers aged below 16 years.

(3) where refunds are requested by those who had purchased season tickets for 2016/17, the reimbursement rate be one-third of the fee paid.

PMC51/16 Next meeting

The committee decided that

- (1) the next meeting of the Manea Pit Management Committee be held on 16 March 2017, to commence at 7.15 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea;
- (2) the Clerk would produce a schedule of meetings, after the one arranged for 16 March, for the remainder of 2017.

Meeting finished at 8.20 pm.

Signature:.....(Committee Chairman)

Date.....