

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

29 SEPTEMBER 2008 – 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Barnes, Chairman; Councillors Archer, Buckton and Emery plus Mr P Catling, Mr M Hawes and Mr J Short.

Apologies: Councillor Cole.

The minutes of the meeting of 8 September 2008 were confirmed and signed, subject to a correction to the list of attendees to read "M Buckton" instead of "D Buckton".

SC1/08 Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

All matters arising from the last meeting were covered by items on the agenda for this meeting.

SC2/08 Management Plan

(1) Fishing - income received

Councillor Archer reported that he is currently in possession of £48, to be presented for banking, in respect of the sale of fishing tickets and, in addition, he has reached agreement with the village Post Office for its sale of season tickets. The income to date for the sale of fishing tickets is at least £150.

Sub-Committee members were pleased to note the current situation.

(2) Carp Syndicate membership

Mr Catling reported that four new members, each paying £100, have joined the syndicate since the last meeting. This increases the total membership to 13 members and has generated income to date of £1,300.

Further to the decisions at the last meeting, Mr Catling presented both an updated version of the Constitution of Manea Carp Club and a revised membership card, for consideration by the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee agreed the revised Constitution and membership card for Manea Carp Club.

SC3/08 Project updates

Further to the last meeting, Mr Hawes reported on the spraying of reeds at the Pit. He stated that the spraying exercise appeared to have been successful and suggests that the situation be reviewed next Spring.

The Sub-Committee discussed the suggestions that had been made during a recent inspection by a representative of a private contractor, Olympic Plant Hire, but does not consider that the suggestions should be pursued.

The Chairman read to members a letter from Parish Councillor Risbridger, in which he raised a number of concerns/issues regarding the spraying of reeds, the collection of income from use of the Pit and issues relating to local wildlife.

On hearing the content of the letter, the Sub-Committee members have no concerns; they consider that all of the matters raised through the letter have been taken on board and, consequently, no action is necessary to address any of the issues raised by Councillor Risbridger. In summary, none of the action taken or proposed will have a detrimental impact upon wildlife or the environment and appropriate and proper financial accounting procedures are in place in terms of collecting revenue and expending monies in relation to the Pit.

The Sub-Committee decided that the current situation be noted.

SC4/08 Costings for grant bid

Councillor Barnes presented a schedule of the types and quantities of material required to develop improvements to the swims. The schedule included telegraph poles, railway sleepers, scaffolding poles and gravel. Once estimates of the cost of each of these materials have been obtained, it will be possible to prepare a funding bid.

Councillor Buckton reported on his investigations, to date, into potential sources of grant aid for these works. He explained that it should be possible to access funding under the Awards for All scheme. Generally, the sources of grant aid available are not accessible by statutory bodies (including Parish Councils); they are aimed at community groups. Councillor Buckton will continue to research the various potential sources of funding available.

On the basis of that grant aid approach, it was clear to the Sub-Committee that it may be beneficial to examine, in the future, a different management arrangement for the Pit whereby it was undertaken by a community group instead of a Sub-Committee of the Parish Council.

Councillor Buckton is confident that a bid for funding under the Awards for All scheme has a strong chance of success, on the basis that the proposed improvements to the swims would encourage participation in fishing by young people and also provide facilities for disabled anglers.

It was felt by all present that these improvements could be deemed as phase 1 of a larger, longer-term project of community benefit, perhaps leading to the provision of a community centre and a linkage to the playing field.

Councillor Emery reported an offer from the owner of land adjoining the Pit to gift an area of land, which could be utilised to improve access to the Pit, subject to the Parish Council's payment of the land owner's legal fees in the transaction. The Sub-Committee was very supportive of such an arrangement and considered that the associated cost of this land acquisition should be included within the funding bid.

Members of the Sub-Committee are mindful of the need to take into account all relevant health and safety issues in relation to the proposed improvement works.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) following his receipt of the necessary cost estimates from the members who undertook to provide the information, Councillor Buckton would submit a bid for funding under the Awards for All scheme; the bid to include details of the quantities of materials needed, the estimated costs of the materials, the legal costs involved in accepting the offer from the land owner, the estimated cost of the construction works and the anticipated cost of creating a footpath;
- (2) consideration be given, at the appropriate time in the future, to the most effective means of managing the Pit, in the context of securing grant aid and developing a more comprehensive community facility.

SC5/08 Next meeting

Members decided, at the request of Councillor Cole, that future meetings be held on Tuesday (instead of Monday) evenings and, on that basis, the next meeting of the Sub-Committee be held on 4 November 2008, commencing at 7.00 pm, in the Pavilion, Park Road, Manea.

Meeting finished at 8.25 pm.

Signature:.....(Sub-Committee Chairman).

Date:.....