

# MANEA PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE

## MINUTES OF MEETING

14 APRIL 2009 – 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Barnes, Chairman; Councillors Archer (until 8.00 pm), Buckton and Emery (until 8.00 pm) plus Mr C Carson, Mr C Catling, Mr M Hawes (until 8.00 pm) and Mr R Miller. In addition, Councillor Risbridger attended for part of the site inspection element of the meeting

Apologies: Councillor Cole.

The minutes of the meeting of 11 March 2009 were confirmed and signed.

### SC26/08 Sub-Committee membership

Further to minute SC22/08 (3), the Chairman welcomed Mr R Miller to his first meeting of the Sub-Committee.

### SC27/08 Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

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

### SC28/08 Management Plan

#### (1) Fishing - income

Further to minute SC22/08 (1), the Chairman reported that Mr Boswell is known to have sold a small number of fishing tickets recently and, consequently, he will arrange to obtain Mr Boswell's receipt book, plus the income from the sale of tickets, to enable the Clerk to conclude the audit process.

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

#### (2) Carp Syndicate membership

Further to minute SC22/08 (2), the Clerk reported that £100.00 had been received by the Parish Council in relation to the two part-year memberships discussed at that minute.

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

#### (3) Improvement/development works

Further to minute SC22/08 (3), the Chairman reported that the two "This footpath is for pedestrian use only" signs had been erected. He reported also that the "volunteer" mentioned at minute SC22/08 (3) had been identified as Mr RK Miller, who had been invited to attend meetings of the Sub-Committee (see minute SC26/08 above).

The Chairman reported that some materials, i.e. sleepers and scaffolding poles, for the next phase of development works have been purchased and that others, e.g. gravel, will be ordered in the very near future. The costs of these materials will be met from the grant awarded to the Parish Council (minute SC30/08 refers).

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

## SC29/08 Projects update

Further to minute SC23/08, the Chairman reported that some minor improvement/maintenance works had been undertaken at the Pit over 14 and 15 March 2009 weekend.

Further to the Sub-Committee's inspection of the Pit and its surroundings (as agreed at minute SC24/08), undertaken at the beginning of the meeting, members considered potential future projects having regard for what they had seen during the inspection.

The Sub-Committee considers that potential works include:

- a. providing a children's play area on land adjoining the existing playing field – possibly funded by grant aid (see minute SC30/08)
- b. clearance of tree branches which overhang the Pit at various locations and the removal of dead and dying trees
- c. clearance of weeds and undergrowth from a specific area of land and the subsequent provision of benches and tables to form a picnic/sitting area – possibly engaging the services of the local Street Pride group to assist in the site clearance
- d. clearance and tidying of an area of agricultural land adjacent to the Pit
- e. removal of ivy from many of the trees within the Pit area
- f. measures to control weed growth within the Pit, using either Barley Straw or Barley Straw Extract.

The Chairman read to the Sub-Committee the contents of a guidance note on how to apply Barley Straw to control weed growth, including the estimated quantities required per hectare of water area, the best times within the year to apply the measure and the likely time scales for the control measure to become effective. Members then discussed the apparent comparative advantages and disadvantages of using Barley Straw and Barley Straw Extract and concluded that, subject to obtaining details of the cost of such measures, an appropriate approach to this matter might be to use Barley Wheat Extract this year and to supplement this with Barley Straw next year.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) an estimate of the cost of controlling weed growth within the Pit by means of Barley Straw Extract be obtained by Mr M Hawes;
- (2) Councillor Buckton would pursue the possibility of obtaining funding for the development of a children's play area on the area of land identified during the site inspection;
- (3) with regard to the potential picnic/sitting area: Councillor Archer would contact the Street Pride Group regarding undertaking site clearance works; Councillor Barnes would arrange to mow the area (on 17 April); Mr C Carson would inspect the area prior to the mowing works to ensure that no wildlife habitats would be destroyed as a result of those works;
- (4) a work party be convened to undertake general tidying, cutting of tree branches and clearance of undergrowth;
- (5) Mr Catling would seek volunteers to form a work party, to begin works on Swim numbers 1 and 2 on 18 April and 2 May 2009 (commencing at 9.00 am on both dates);
- (6) the progress on the above proposals/measures be discussed at the next Sub-Committee meeting

## SC30/08 Grant funding

Further to minute SC24/08, Councillor Buckton reported that the application for grant funding under the Awards for All scheme had been successful and, consequently, it is anticipated that a sum of £8,768.00 had been paid into the bank account of Manea Parish Council during week commencing 6 April 2009. He also reported briefly on sources of funding that are available for the improvement and development of public play spaces.

In addition, Mr Carson reported that the Environment Agency will only consider the award of grants in cases where an organisation or body has developed a project/business case and thereafter seeks financial assistance; it will not agree funding in principle for an initiative or project yet to be developed.

The Sub-Committee noted the current situation and was particularly pleased to note the success of the application for funding under the Awards for All scheme; members expressed their appreciation of the work of Councillor Buckton in this regard.

### SC31/08 Letter from local resident

The Chairman read a letter from Mr Risbridger, a resident of Manea, relating to a number of issues in respect of the management and development of Manea Pit.

Mr Risbridger deems the actions of ploughing the "feeding station" for birds at the east of the Pit and the spraying of weeds within the Pit as acts of vandalism. Within the letter, he explains the reasons for his opinion.

Mr Risbridger suggests, in his letter, that the most appropriate way of managing fishing activities at the Pit would be for the Parish Council to grant a licence to the Manea Angling Club. He also makes comments in relation to the preservation of natural habitats for wildlife and the need for nature conservation within the Pit area.

Mr Risbridger expressed views in relation to where the decision-making powers should lie in relation to the Pit developments/improvements, i.e. the Sub-Committee or the Parish Council. He concludes his letter by making the point that he wishes to see Manea Pit treated as a fragile nature reserve.

The Sub-Committee members discussed the points made and issues raised by way of Mr Risbridger's letter and made particular comment in relation to the suggestion of granting a licence to Manea Angling Club to manage the fishing activities at the Pit; such a course of action was not considered feasible.

The Sub-Committee noted the comments made by Mr Risbridger in his letter but is of the opinion that the improvement and developments both undertaken and planned are the most appropriate for the Pit, both in terms of creating a fishing facility and providing as a rural community facility. Sub-Committee members are mindful of the need to take appropriate specialist advice and to meet all regulatory requirements in delivering this project and consider that the approved processes are being followed by the Sub-Committee and the Parish Council in relation to the decision-making that is necessary.

*(The Chairman agreed to this item being discussed as a matter of urgency to enable members to be aware of the views of this resident before further works are undertaken)*

### SC32/08 Next meeting

Members decided that the next meeting of the Sub-Committee be held on 19 May 2009, commencing at 7.00 pm, at the Pavilion.

Meeting finished at 9.10 pm.

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

Date:.....