

# MANEA PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE

## MINUTES OF MEETING

12 JANUARY 2010 – 7.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Barnes, Chairman; Councillors Archer, Cole and Emery plus Mr C Carson (from 7.10 pm), Mr I Fost, Mr M Hawes, Mr R Miller and Mrs P Smith.

**Apologies:** Councillor Buckton.

The minutes of the meeting of 15 December 2009 were confirmed and signed.

### **SC34/09 Matters arising from minutes of last meeting**

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

### **SC35/09 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects**

The Sub-Committee discussed a number of issues in relation to delivery of the management plan, as follows:

- (1) Fishing platforms – Councillor Cole reported that, although the recent work party was unable to complete the works required to the fishing platforms, because of the poor weather conditions, time was spent, and good results achieved, on clearance and tidying works around the Pit.

Councillor Cole added that, in the interest of health and safety, removal and pruning works are required to a small number of trees around Manea Pit. In addition, it would now be appropriate for the Sub-Committee to identify areas for planting of trees etc.

It was noted that the additional construction materials (i.e. sleepers and scaffold poles) to achieve completion of all works to the fishing platforms have been purchased.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) there be an on-site inspection by certain members of the Sub-Committee, on 23 January 2010, to identify the existing trees which require works and the possible areas for new planting;
  - (2) a further work party be arranged for 6 February 2010.
- (2) Weed control – Mr M Hawes reported that his investigations into the use of barley straw as a means of controlling blanket weed show that such an approach would require a considerable amount of time and effort but would deliver very little benefit; the process is extremely labour intensive and would probably need to be undertaken at six monthly intervals. Consequently, he recommended that this possible approach be not pursued further.

Members of the Sub-Committee supported the recommendation made by Mr Hawes and, consequently, sought to identify an alternative method of weed control.

It was suggested that, despite the decision reached at the last meeting, the possible use of Dyofix as a means of weed control should be not discounted permanently. Members of the Sub-Committee considered that, even if not

felt to be appropriate at this time, it may, in the light of other users' experience of the product, be considered to be suitable in the future.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) barley straw be not used as the means of weed control at Manea Pit;
- (2) the possible use of Dyofix as a means of weed control be not discounted permanently; members of the Sub-Committee will seek to identify other areas where this chemical is being used and monitor its effectiveness, with a view to re-considering its use in the light of experience of use elsewhere.
- (3) Fish stocks – Mr Hawes reported that, because of the current adverse weather conditions, the additional 25 to 30 Carp had not yet been added to the Pit; they have not yet been delivered to the UK; it is anticipated that these fish will be in Manea Pit by the end of February or by mid-March 2010.

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

- (3) Water quality – Mrs P Smith reported on the two quotations she had obtained for the provision of a water quality survey in respect of Manea Pit. She explained the type of information/data that the survey would provide, which the members of the Sub-Committee consider would be beneficial in terms of helping to inform maintenance and development proposals for the Pit. It was, acknowledged, however, that the survey results would be unlikely to inform the debate regarding an appropriate method of weed control.

The Sub-Committee considers that the most appropriate time for the undertaking of such a survey would be the month of March.

The Sub-Committee decided to accept the quotation provided by the Environment Agency, of the order of £85.00, the lower of the two obtained, and requested Mrs P Smith to commission the Environment Agency to undertake the water quality survey in March 2010.

#### (4) Open spaces

- a) Picnic area – Councillor Archer expressed the view, shared by other members of the Sub-Committee, that the development of a plan for the layout/design of this area is unnecessary; all that is needed is agreement in respect of planting, surfacing and the locations for seating/benches.

The Sub-Committee decided that this matter be considered as part of the Manea Pit inspection scheduled for 23 January 2010 (minute SC35/09 (1) refers).

- b) Car park area - Councillor Barnes reported his suggestions for surfacing/landscaping of this area, taking into account the need for effective drainage of the site.

The Sub-Committee decided that the information be noted and that this matter be considered further as part of the Manea Pit inspection scheduled for 23 January 2010 (minute SC35/09 (1) refers).

- c) Field adjoining Pit – the Chairman reported that Mrs B Carson had organised a meeting in the village for 14 January 2010, to seek the views of villagers on the possible creation of a Community Orchard in Manea. Consequently, the Sub-Committee discussed what it felt to be the possible sites in the village for such a proposal and the relative advantages and disadvantages of each (including the field adjoining the Pit).

Mrs P Smith reported on her discussions with Mary Larham regarding the development of potential landscaping/planting schemes for this area of land. The estimated costs of the possible options that she

reported (including hedging and various types of apple trees) range from £2,000 to £4,500. In addition to the costs of planting, it would be necessary for the area to be managed and maintained thereafter. Mrs Smith made the point that Mrs Larham is happy to assist in the development of a landscaping project in an advisory capacity but would be unable to commit time to manage delivery of the project.

The Sub-Committee decided

- (1) to note the information reported by Mrs Smith and to await the outcome of the Community Orchard meeting organised by Mrs B Carson before considering further the potential uses for this land;
- (2) that arrangements be made for the field to be mowed before the end of March 2010.

### **SC37/09 Manea Pit – Strategic Plan 2008/11**

Further to minute SC32/09, the Sub-Committee considered the Manea Pit Strategic Plan 2008/11, with the aim of establishing whether Manea Parish Council is achieving, via the Sub-Committee's actions, effective delivery of the vision set out in the plan.

Members of the Sub-Committee recognise the need to engage the community in the ongoing development of the Pit area and of the potential benefits of re-engaging with some of the specialist organisations and individuals who had been involved in the early stages of the project.

The Sub-Committee considers that the vision and the methods by which the vision are proposed to be achieved, as detailed in the plan, remain valid and that the vision is currently being delivered in the manner proposed by the plan. The only element of the plan that the Sub-Committee feels requires revision is the committee/management structure detailed in the document; the proposed Pit Development Partnership Group has not been created and the Sub-Committee can see no purpose for such a group within the management structure.

The Sub-Committee decided that the Manea Pit Strategic Plan 2008/11 be re-affirmed, subject to deletion of reference within the document of a Pit Development Partnership Group.

### **SC38/09 Manea Pit – Health and Safety**

The Sub-Committee considered whether there are currently any health and safety issues relating to Manea Pit.

Concern was expressed regarding young people walking on the ice when the Pit water is frozen but recognise that this type of risk is a national problem on all areas of frozen water and acknowledge that there is no feasible action that can be taken to prevent the risk.

In addition, there are a small number of works required to trees that would improve safety around the Pit (minute SC35/09 (1) refers).

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the Risk Assessment undertaken previously should be re-visited, to ensure that it remains "fit for purpose", given the changed situation at Manea Pit since it was undertaken;
- (2) details of the full address (including postcode) and grid reference of Manea Pit should be placed on the notice board, for the benefit of any user who may need to call the emergency services for assistance;
- (3) the works to trees be undertaken as a matter of priority.

**SC39/09 Next meeting**

Members decided that the next meeting of the Sub-Committee be held on 9 February 2010, commencing at 7.00 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

**Meeting finished at 8.30 pm.**

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

Date:.....