

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

4 AUGUST 2010 – 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Emery, in the Chair; Councillors Archer and Mrs Desborough plus Mr C Carson, Mr P Catling, Mr I Fost, Mr R Miller and Mrs P Smith.

Apologies: Councillors Buckton and Cole plus Mrs B Carson.

The minutes of the meeting of 24 June 2010 were confirmed and signed.

SC10/10 Appointment of Chairman for the meeting

Given the absence of the Chairman and the decision at the last meeting not to appoint a Vice-Chairman for 2010/11 (minute SC2/10 refers), Councillor Emery was appointed as Chairman for the meeting.

SC11/10 Appointment of Vice-Chairman for 2010/11

In the light of the circumstances set out at minute SC10/10 above, Councillor Archer recommended that the decision at minute SC2/10, i.e. not to appoint a Vice-Chairman for 2010/11 but to operate on the basis of appointing a member to chair a meeting in the event of the Chairman's absence, be re-considered.

Members supported the opinion of Councillor Archer that current circumstances have demonstrated the need to appoint a Vice-Chairman, not only because of the need to chair meetings of the Sub-Committee in the absence of the Chairman but also to undertake any duties and actions associated with the chairman's role, in the event of that member's absence between meetings.

Members decided that Councillor Archer be appointed as the Vice-Chairman of the Sub-Committee for 2010/11.

(The Chairman agreed to this item of business being discussed as a matter of urgency to enable the issue to be considered at the earliest opportunity)

SC12/10 Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

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

SC13/10 Field adjoining Manea Pit – possible use as community orchard/woodland

Further to minute SC4/10, Mrs Smith circulated a report that she had prepared in respect of the response she had received in relation to the pre-application submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). She drew Sub-Committee members' attention to suggestions made by the HLF to improve the likelihood of the application's success.

Mrs Smith reminded the Sub-Committee of the objectives of the Heritage Lottery Fund and of the aims of the orchard/woodland project in terms of meeting the funding criteria set by the HLF.

Mrs Smith provided suggestions as to how the project could meet each of the key objectives set by the HLF; these objectives relate to Conservation, Learning, Participation. The Sub-Committee discussed Mrs Smith's suggestions as to how each of the objectives could be met. Sub-Committee members paid particular attention to the Learning

objective, acknowledging the importance of securing support/involvement of Manea School in this project. Although there had been some dialogue between Councillor Buckton and Mrs Carson with the Headteacher regarding this project, it was felt that a discussion between the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Chairman of the School Governors would assist in developing the input from the school into the project.

Mrs Smith informed the Sub-Committee that the Parish Council needs to be able to demonstrate, within its application, support from within the community for the project; this could be achieved by submitting six letters of support. In this regard, the Sub-Committee identified relevant organisations/bodies to be invited to produce letters of support for the project.

In addition, to producing a report on the HLF grant funding position, Mrs Smith had prepared a draft project plan for the proposed orchard/woodland scheme. She outlined to the Sub-Committee the elements within the project plan. Mrs Smith made the point that, in the longer-term, it would be appropriate to review the current management plan for Manea Pit to embrace the orchard/woodland area.

Through discussion, it was clear that the Sub-Committee sees this area as containing a variety of trees and planting and not to consist solely of fruit trees.

Councillor Archer reported that Fenland District Council has confirmed that there would be no requirement for the Parish Council to obtain planning permission for change of use of the land for orchard/woodland purposes, on the basis that the proposed use is considered by the Local Planning Authority to still be agricultural in nature.

With regard to the Sub-Committee's proposal that a roadway, together with a limited amount of car parking (space for 4 or 5 cars), be provided at the site, the Sub-Committee was informed that the Parish Council had considered the quotations obtained by Councillor Cole and had awarded such a contract (at minute M30/10) to a local company.

In response to a suggestion made by Mr Miller that the proposed dipping pond should be located in this area instead of in the main pit area, Councillor Emery informed the Sub-Committee that the Primary School does not consider that such a situation would be appropriate in terms of child safety.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the current Heritage Lottery Fund grant funding situation be noted;
- (2) the Chairman of the Parish Council would meet with the Chairman of the Manea Community Primary School Governors with the aim of achieving effective involvement in this project by the school;
- (3) Mrs P Smith would undertake the day-to-day management of this project on behalf of the Sub-Committee.

SC14/10 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects

The Sub-Committee decided that, given the level of progress that has been achieved, there are no issues requiring consideration at this time.

SC15/10 Manea Pit – Health and Safety

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

The Sub-committee identified the possible need for the provision of a number of life jackets, to be worn by any persons who are undertaking works in the immediate vicinity of Manea Pit.

Councillor Emery reported that the Parish Council had decided, at minute M28/10, that four "No Swimming/Deep Water" signs be acquired and subsequently erected within Manea Pit; these signs are now available for installation.

The Sub-Committee decided that the current situation be noted and RECOMMENDED that the Parish Council considers whether or not a number of life jackets should be purchased.

SC16/10 Various fishing issues

Further to minute SC7/10, Mr Fost reported that the new fish to be purchased would not, for the reasons explained, be Ide.

In addition, Mr Fost presented the Clerk with payments totalling £519.80 (£593.00 less printing costs etc) from the sale of fishing tickets.

Members were informed by the Clerk that the number of members of the Carp Syndicate for 2010/11 had increased by two since the last meeting, both of whom had paid the annual membership fee of £110.

In addition, Mr Catling presented the Clerk with the details and fee for a new junior member.

The Clerk reported an enquiry from a local resident as to whether

- concessionary fees for Carp Syndicate membership are offered for disabled anglers
- the facility for paying Carp Syndicate fees in instalments exists.

Mr Miller, supported by Mr Fost, requested that a punt (which would be used to undertake certain works, such as weed clearing, at Manea Pit) be moored in the reed bed at the pit. Other members of the Sub-Committee did not support the request; they felt that such an arrangement could result in health and safety problems.

The Sub-Committee decided

- (1) to note that the membership of the Carp Syndicate for the 2010/11 season currently stands at 21 adult members and 1 junior member;
- (2) that neither concessionary fees for Carp Syndicate membership be offered to disabled anglers nor the facility to pay fees by instalments be introduced.

SC17/10 Project development and financial planning

Further to minute SC8/10, the Clerk circulated a report on the financial position in relation to Manea Pit. This report detailed:

- the funding brought forward from the financial year 2009/10
- the income received and the expenditure incurred in 2010/11 as at 4 August 2010
- expenditure commitments to date for the current financial year.

Based upon the current financial situation reported by the Clerk and the likely level of future income from the sale of additional fishing tickets and Carp Syndicate membership fees, it is anticipated that the Manea Pit element of the Parish Council's accounts will achieve a break-even position at the end of the financial year. What is clear is that there is currently little ability to fund additional projects for Manea Pit in the current financial year unless external funding, e.g. from grant aid, can be secured.

Members decided that the information reported be noted and that the financial position be kept under close scrutiny during the remainder of the current financial year; the Clerk will produce similar financial reports to the Sub-Committee on a quarterly basis.

SC18/10 Next meeting

Members decided that the next meeting of the Sub-Committee be held on 8 September 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:.....