

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

10 MAY 2011 – 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Archer, Chairman; Councillors Mrs Desborough and Emery plus Mr C Carson, Mr P Catling, Mr I Fost, Mr R K Miller and Mrs P Smith. Councillor Lockett attended as an observer.

Apologies: Councillor Cole.

The minutes of the meeting of 4 April 2011 were confirmed and signed.

SC67/10 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.

SC68/10 Field adjoining Manea Pit – use as community orchard/woodland

Further to minute SC60/10, Mrs Smith reported on the current situation regarding this project.

Mrs Smith reported that the grass seed which had been sown at the site is yet to germinate. The Sub-Committee is, however, hopeful that the situation will change when the weather becomes wetter.

Mrs Smith informed the Sub-Committee that the team of interested persons which had been formed to produce a scheme design would hold its first meeting on 16 May 2011. The meeting will take place at Manea Gardening School; the cost of hiring this venue will be £10.00 per meeting. She anticipates being in a position to present a draft scheme design, including estimated costs, to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

Mrs Smith stated that she had not yet provided each member of the Sub-Committee with a copy of the revised design brief.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had agreed, at its last meeting (minute M152/10 refers), to meet the annual cost of an additional page on its website in respect of the pit and orchard/woodland.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the progress situation be noted;
- (2) Mrs Smith would provide each member of the Sub-Committee with a copy of the revised design brief in advance of the next meeting;
- (3) an update on the work of the design team, and hopefully a draft scheme design, be presented to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

SC69/10 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects

The Sub-Committee discussed the works still necessary to deliver the current management plan.

Councillor Archer reported that the agreed netting works have now been undertaken and plans are now in place to provide a dipping pond and associated walkway. There was a general discussion regarding this latter project, including the construction materials that would be required.

Mr Fost mentioned that work to fill the small pool has still to be undertaken. In this regard, the Clerk reminded members of the Sub-Committee of the decision reached at minute SC53/10.

The Sub-Committee is aware that some of the fishing platforms are now showing signs of "wear and tear" and, consequently, maintenance work will be required during the current financial year.

The Sub-Committee decided that the pond dipping and associated walkway project and the necessary maintenance works to fishing platforms be undertaken by work parties during the autumn of 2011.

SC70/10 Manea Pit – Revision of the management plan

Further to minute SC62/10, Mrs Smith reported that she has been unable to progress this matter since the last meeting due to a lack of response from the Wildlife Trust.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the current position regarding the development of a new management plan be noted;
- (2) Mrs Smith would pursue a response from the relevant officer at the Wildlife Trust.

SC71/10 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 decided that there are no new health and safety issues at this time.

SC72/10 Fishing issues

Mr Catling reported that he has recently despatched renewal of membership notifications to current members of the Carp Syndicate. He added that, given the likely level of membership renewals and the number of people on the waiting list, he anticipates that a full syndicate membership (set at 30 adult members), plus 2 junior members, will be achieved for the 2011/12 season.

Mr Fost informed the Sub-Committee that he has begun selling 2011/12 season tickets, as well as continuing to collect current day ticket fees and, in this regard, he presented the Clerk with the sum of £275.00.

Mrs Smith mentioned the decision of the Sub-Committee (minute SC48/10 refers) that a "Try fishing" day be organised for a suitable date in August 2011 and she enquired as to how this matter is being progressed. Both Mr Fost and Mr Miller informed the Sub-Committee of some of the operational issues which would need to be addressed in this matter. Mr Fost undertook to raise the matter at the next meeting of Manea Angling Club (date still to be finalised).

As part of the Sub-Committee's discussion of this matter, members considered how best to publicise and to attract interest in the event. The Sub-Committee concluded that Manea Gala should be used as a means of both publicising the event and registering participants.

Mr Fost and Miller sought the Sub-Committee's view as to whether it would recommend to the Parish Council that a financial sum, of say £600.00, be allocated for the purchase of fish in 2011/12. They referred to the fact that the

Parish Council had allocated a sum of £500 for this purpose in 2010/11 but that it had then been re-allocated to other pit works because of the provision, free-of-charge, of fish by the Environment Agency.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the information reported by Mr Catling in relation to the Carp Syndicate membership/income be noted;
- (2) a decision on whether or not to recommend to the Parish Council that a sum be allocated for the purchase of fish should not be made until the Sub-Committee is aware of the likely level of fishing income for 2011/12 and the financial commitments that it may face in that year (such as works to trees, extension of notice board, maintenance works to fishing platforms, provision of pond dipping facility and associated walkway etc);
- (3) a "Try Fishing" day be arranged by Manea Angling Club and be publicised etc via Manea Gala.

SC73/10 Management of trees at Manea Pit

Further to minute SC65/10, Mr Fost handed the Clerk an invoice for £175.00 in relation to emergency tree works undertaken at Manea Pit and reported on a quotation that he had obtained from the same contractor in relation to other works considered necessary.

The Sub-Committee discussed the works recommended by the contractor.

It is felt that the necessary works could be undertaken in two phases, the most urgent one being to attend to trees at the picnic area.

The Sub-Committee acknowledges the need to obtain a comparison quotation for this work.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the Clerk would arrange for a representative of an additional tree maintenance contractor to make contact with Mr Fost, with the aim of meeting on-site to discuss the necessary tree works and achieving a comparison quotation;
- (2) the matter be discussed further at the next meeting.

SC74/10 Dog fouling

Mr Catling referred to the problem of dog fouling around Manea Pit and, consequently, the Sub-Committee discussed possible courses of legal and operational action to address the problem.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) Councillor Archer would arrange for the notice board to display a notice stating that dogs must be kept on leads when being walked around the pit and that owners should clear any fouling caused by their dogs;
- (2) members would, when witnessing dog owners not keeping their dogs on their leads or failing to clear up after their dogs, seek to address the issue with the culprits.

SC75/10 Litter bins

Mr Catling raised the issue of the emptying of the litter bins in the picnic area, which are often "overflowing", and sought clarification as to where the responsibility lies in this regard.

Councillor Archer explained that the responsibility for emptying these litter bins lies with the Parish Council, although Fenland District Council (FDC) does provide some assistance in the matter.

The Sub-Committee decided that Councillor Archer would pursue the matter with Mr M Short, who provides this service for Manea Parish Council, and the relevant officer at FDC.

SC76/10 Next meeting

Members decided that the next meeting of the Sub-Committee be held on 15 June 2011, commencing at 7.30 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

Meeting finished at 8.55 pm.

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

Date:.....