

MANEA PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

28 JULY 2011 – 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Archer, Chairman; Councillors Cole, Mrs Desborough and Emery plus Mr C Carson, Mr P Catling, Mr I Fost and Mr R K Miller.

Apologies: Mrs B Carson and Mrs P Smith.

The minutes of the meeting of 15 June 2011 were confirmed and signed.

SC13/11 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.

SC14/11 Field adjoining Manea Pit – use as community orchard/woodland

Further to minute SC4/11, the Clerk reported information provided, in advance of the meeting by e-mail, by Mrs Smith.

Mrs Smith has provided the East of England Apples and Orchard Project with details of the trees that are required for this project; this will enable the organisation to allocate the trees to this project; a formal order will then be placed in the autumn.

Mrs Smith confirms that Councillor Emery had, since the last meeting, provided her with details of the type of seed which had been used to re-seed the orchard/woodland site and she explained in her e-mail why she felt that the particular seed used was unsuitable for this project; she expressed her concerns both in that regard and in respect of some of the decision-making relating to technical aspects of this project.

Councillor Archer reported that the Woodland Trust has provided him with details of trees which it is able to make available and that he will forward this information to Mrs Smith.

The Sub-Committee decided that both the current progress situation and the concerns expressed by Mrs Smith be noted.

SC15/11 Management Plan - improvement/development works and projects

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

Further to minute SC69/10, Councillor Cole reported that the work to fill the small pool has now been undertaken.

Further to minute SC5/11, Mr Miller mentioned that the works to “top up” the chippings on the footpaths are still outstanding.

The Sub-Committee decided that

- (1) the current situation regarding the maintenance of the pit area be noted;

(2) Councillor Archer would seek to arrange for the Community Payback Team to "top up" the chippings where necessary; hopefully, this could be arranged to take place during the forthcoming weekend.

SC16/11 Manea Pit – Revision of the management plan

Further to minute SC6/11, the Clerk reported information provided, in advance of the meeting by e-mail, by Mrs Smith.

The e-mail from Mrs Smith states that work on the preparation of a location plan of the area to be the subject of the new management plan, which is being undertaken for Mrs Smith by Margaret Williams, is underway.

The Sub-Committee decided that the current position regarding the development of a new management plan be noted.

SC17/11 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.

SC18/11 Fishing issues

The Clerk reported an e-mail from Parish Councillor Woodard, expressing concern that persons walking their dogs around the pit area are being told by anglers to be quiet. He feels that this action of the anglers is inappropriate, as the pit area is provided for the enjoyment of the whole community.

The Sub-Committee considered a representation from a local resident regarding an incident which took place on the evening of 16 July 2011 at Manea Pit, involving him and a group of anglers.

The resident stated that he had been subjected to threatening behaviour and inappropriate language from the anglers while he was walking his dogs around the pit area and that when he returned to his car, he found that dog excrement had been smeared on the door handles. He informed members that other dog owners in the village who walk their dogs around the pit are experiencing the same hostile treatment from the anglers. He made reference to the clause within the fishing rules for anglers to behave in a courteous manner.

Mr Catling responded, from the anglers' perspective, to the comments made by the local resident. He made the point that the issue which causes anglers to be annoyed and frustrated is the amount of dog fouling around the pit area, caused in the main by dog owners not keeping their dogs on leads. He added that the dogs of the local resident who was the subject of the incident on 16 July 2011 are not kept on leads while walking around the pit area and this is the fact that generated the conflict on that evening.

Mr Catling apologised, on behalf of all anglers, for the incident on 16 July 2011 but considers that the dog fouling issue, and its primary cause of dogs not being kept on leads, needs to be addressed. He asked the Sub-Committee to recommend to Manea Parish Council that a No Dogs ruling be applied to the pit area; this would not only address the dog fouling problem but also remove any potential for conflict between anglers and dog walkers.

Councillor Emery made the point that anglers must respect the fact that the pit area is available to all members of the community and that there is a requirement for them to act in a courteous manner to all other users of that area; likewise, there is a requirement for dogs to be kept on leads while being walked around the pit area; all users of that area need to co-exist in a harmonious manner.

Income was presented to the Clerk as follows:

- £ 347.00 from Mr Fost; this related to income of £365.00 from the sale of fishing tickets, less £18.00 for the cost of fish feed
- £110 from Mr Catling; this related to an additional Carp Syndicate membership fee
- £175.00 from Councillor Archer; this related to the sale of fishing tickets by the Post Office.

In addition, the Clerk reported that he had received, between this meeting and the last one, £2,100.00 from Mr Catling in relation to Carp Syndicate membership fees for 2011/12.

The Sub-Committee discussed the need for clearance of lilies from the pit and whether spraying or mechanical removal would be the most effective and appropriate method. The advantages and disadvantages of both methods were debated.

The Sub-Committee accepted the advice of Mr Carson that, from an environmental perspective, clearance of lilies by mechanical means would be preferable. Mr Carson stated that if the lilies were to be cleared by mechanical cutting, the autumn would be the most appropriate time of year.

The Sub-Committee decided

- (1) to accept the offer of Mr Catling that he would write an open letter of apology from the Carp Syndicate to dog owners, to be placed in the notice board at Manea Pit and send a newsletter to Carp Syndicate members regarding the need to be courteous towards dog walkers;
- (2) that Councillor Emery would arrange for an article to appear in the Manea Matters publication, to remind the community of the fact that dogs must be kept on leads when being walked around the pit area, and obtain a quotation for the provision of additional "dogs must be kept on leads" signs for installation around the pit area.
- (3) that the fishing income be noted;
- (4) that Mr C Carson and Mr P Catling would identify jointly the areas of the pit where clearance of lilies is required and that Mr Carson would undertake investigations as to suitable means of mechanical extraction and report to the next meeting thereon.

SC19/11 Management of trees at Manea Pit

Further to minute SC9/11, Mr Fost reported that, due to current workload issues, the contractor had not yet submitted a quotation for works to trees at the picnic area.

The Sub-Committee decided that the information reported by Mr Fost be noted and that Mr Fost would pursue this matter, with the aim of a quotation being presented to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

SC20/11 Monitoring of actions

Further to minute SC10/11, Councillor Archer circulated a draft schedule of actions document.

The Sub-Committee suggested some amendments to the layout of the document (so that the information would appear in a tabular format) and agreed which of the actions could now be discharged.

The Sub-Committee decided that Councillor Archer would revise the layout of the actions document and present an up-to-date document (i.e. with completed actions deleted and new actions added) to each meeting of the Sub-Committee.

SC21/11 Website information

Further to minute SC11/11, Councillor Archer reported that Mrs Smith had forwarded to him an updated woodland plan and a copy of the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, for publication, as part of the overall pit/woodland page, on Manea Parish Council's website. Prior to publication of these any other documents, Councillor Archer will provide some "introductory" text for the new website page.

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

SC22/11 Suspicious behaviour around Manea Pit

Councillor Emery mentioned incidents, on recent evenings, of suspicious behaviour around the pit, involving a group of foreign nationals, which he had reported to PCSO Marie Bailey.

The Sub-Committee decided that the information reported by Councillor Emery be noted.

SC23/11 Next meeting

The Sub-Committee was reminded that the next meeting has been scheduled for 24 August 2011, commencing at 7.30 pm, at the British Legion Club, East Street, Manea.

Meeting finished at 9.05 pm.

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

Date:.....