

Denby Parish Community Action Group

The Combined Community Association of Denby, Birdsedge and High Flatts

Minutes of the Steering Committee
Tuesday 20th March 2007 at 19:30
At The Friends Meeting House High Flatts

Opening:

The meeting of the Denby Parish Community Action Group was called to order at 19:30 on Tuesday 20th March 2007 in Friends Meeting House High Flatts by the Chairman, David Cook.

Present:

Andy Asher, Andrew Brown, John Perry, David Smith, Dawn Smith, John Cook, David Cook [Chair], Sue Daws.

A. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Allan and Jane Fish and from Guy Ellis.

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting on 27th February 2007 were amended slightly and unanimously approved.

C. Matters Arising

Answers to correspondence were circulated.

D. Issues discussed

1. Gunthwaite Lane

John Cook reported that he had come across contractors (on behalf of YEDL) digging up and damaging an ancient footpath next to Gunthwaite Lane. John Cook asked them to stop but they refused. A number of the ancient flag stones were broken. Comment was made that our Community Plan should record all ancient monuments in the area to ensure they are preserved.

Decision: To write a letter expressing the Group's concern to Mr Squires Barnsley Council Highways Department, and asking them to ensure that, since the deed has been done, that the footpath is replaced exactly as before. Copy to Gunthwaite and Ingbirchworth Parish Council.

Action: Sue Daws to draft a letter to Barnsley Council.

2. Common Land in High Flatts

Robert Brown, of New Brighton High Flatts, wants to place a seat on the High Flatts Common Land overlooking the runway. Dawn Smith explained how he should go about getting the necessary permission. He needs to contact Kirklees Culture and Leisure department and the Parish Council. The council will then perform a site visit. The design of the seat must be in keeping with the local area, and should be of good quality. It was discussed whether the Group could take over management of the common land (Kirklees Council currently looks after it) when/if it sets up a trust for Denby Delf. The question of whether there was any other common land in the area was raised. The Group certainly felt that this was a local issue that we should be involved in, and that it was more information for the Community Plan.

3. Scrap Cars in High Flatts

David Cook reported that the clean-up was ongoing.

4. Denby Delph/Delf

A special meeting has been called for Tuesday 27th March in Upper Denby School to inform local people of the activities concerning Denby Delf and to get their views on how we take the matter forward. Councillor Jim Dodds from Kirklees and Councillor Elaine Ward from the Area Committee will both be present at the meeting. Most discussion centred on how the meeting should be organised, who will chair it, and what should be contained in the agenda. The Group feels very strongly that it should control the meeting, with David Cook as chair; if that means that we cannot ask Neil Windett of Kirklees to attend, then so be it.

It was felt that we should stress most strongly that our local authority has not acted openly and in our interest. The agenda will cover:

1. Progress report on the KMC review of Denby Dale Parish Council
2. Progress Report on the Community Plan
3. Outline of the problem/historical review by David Cook
4. Questioning the secretiveness of the Council; lack of consultation
5. What are our next steps
6. Who are the Garganey Trust and why are they involved; do they have any links with Natural England, which is promoting their cause?

A local professional botanist, Mrs Lucas, has voluntarily inspected land for David Cook in the past, and may be able to help with identification of flora on Denby Delf. Also, a representative from the RSPB local office in Denby Dale may be able to attend the meeting – Andy Brown offered to enquire. It was felt that the Treasury Solicitor has to be halted whilst we are given time to prepare our plan. The question of legal representation was floated – John Cook undertook to ask a local barrister if he could attend.

D. Any Other Business

Further meeting: It was felt that an additional meeting, on Monday 2nd April, would be useful to continue the momentum from the public meeting.

Community Plan: Andy Brown has completed the request for funding and it will be with the YRCC by the end of the week.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 21:30 by the Chairman. The next general meeting will be held on Monday 2nd April 2007 at 19:30 in a place to be decided.

Minutes submitted by: Sue Daws [Secretary]
Approved by: David Cook [Chairman]