

Denby Parish Community Action Group

The Combined Community Association of Denby, Birdsedge and High Flatts

Minutes of the Steering Committee

Tuesday 24th April 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 24th April 2007 in Friends Meeting House High Flatts by the Chairman, David Cook.

Present:

Guy Ellis, Joe Price, Andy Asher, Andrew Brown, Joe Price, Rosemary Buck, David McLaren, Pat Smith, Tim Jones, John Perry, John Cook, John Perry, David Cook [Chair], Sue Daws.

A. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Allan & Jane Fish, and David & Dawn Smith.

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous steering committee meeting on 2nd April 2007 were unanimously approved.

C. Matters Arising

1. Footpath 77

David Cook reported that this footpath is still not passable and the steps which have been built look like they are in the wrong place.

2. Funding

Andy Brown confirmed that the offer of funding from YRCC has been formally accepted and a cheque for £5,000 is on its way.

3. The Area Committee

David Cook confirmed that the turnout for the Area Committee meeting on 19th April had been very good, better than most meetings in fact.

4. Newsletter

David Cook hopes that the newsletter would be published next Friday 27th April, and that the intention was to publish every 2 – 3 months. Alan is looking for sponsorship for the newsletters as the printing cost is very high (the half page flyers for a meeting would cost in the region of £80 for 250 A4 sheets which is beyond our means without funding.

5. Denby Delf

Nothing has been heard from Kirklees. There was a brief discussion on whether we should set up a charitable trust.

6. Sellars Field in Birdsedge

There is still no news on the planning appeal hearing regarding the application to build a house. Also still waiting to hear from YEDL the reason for wanting to move the electricity line which crosses Mr Sellars' land.

D. Issues discussed

1. Traffic

It was reported that the traffic situation in Birdsedge appears to have worsened since the lines were painted on the road. Tim Jones said he had been in touch with Philip Gwynne of the Yorkshire Road Casualty Reduction Scheme, who had offered to train him in the use of a hand-held radar gun! School traffic has definitely increased in the last few years, there being over 100 children now attending the school. There is also an after school club at the Village Hall which has encouraged higher attendance at the school. The meeting felt that we need something to remind people of the speed limit, more effective than just a speed limit repeater. A flashing sign telling the motorist if his/her speed exceeds the limit can be very effective, if backed up with a camera to catch the people who do not take any notice of it. John Perry said that Upper Denby does not want a camera, but perhaps speed plateaux would be most appropriate as the motorist reaches the 30mph sign. Falledge Lane in Upper Denby is particularly fast and needs attention.

It was also reported that Tesco plans to build a store at Penistone. This will increase traffic through Upper Denby from people taking a short cut from Denby Dale to Penistone; there will also be more traffic over the Woodhead pass once the Tintwistle by-pass is completed, much of it coming from the Huddersfield direction along the A629. Pat Smith reported that Hope in Derbyshire have a good traffic management system, sympathetic to a small rural location, and aesthetically pleasing. We need to get KMC looking at the problem. David McLaren reported that KMC Highways Department held a survey in Upper Denby as part of a planning application for a number of new houses. They claimed that the development would not affect the infrastructure but it transpired that the survey had been taken for 1.5 hours only, at 15:00 – a quiet time in the village as most people who drive at speed do so in the mornings and evenings.

Mark Ramsden of KMC is involved in designing highways in the area and has invited David Cook to talk to him about our problems. It seems that at present council officers tell us what they can and cannot do whereas it should be us telling the councillors what we want and the councillors telling the council officers what to do. Tim Jones suggested a softy-softly approach; we outline our concerns and ask the council officers how we can work together to achieve our aims; if nothing results from that then assert pressure. Should we have a petition on the matter? Should we ask Elaine Ward to be our sponsor? She is very busy at the moment but could be approached after the election.

Action: Sue Daws to draft a letter to Mark Ramsden inviting him to a meeting with David Cook, and stating that we intend to hold a public meeting on the matter of traffic but would like to try to resolve some of the issues with him in advance if possible. There is a groundswell of public opinion in the three villages on this matter.

2. Denby Dale Parish Plan

Sue Daws read the letter from Councillor Allen of Denby Dale Parish Council in reply to her criticism of the DD Parish Plan. It is still their intention to go ahead with publication, but a number of points were conceded. The funding for this was discussed and the point made that, since they had a fund of £16,000 and the result will cost nothing like that amount of money to produce, the remainder should revert to the organisations that gave the money, such as the YRCC.

3. White Paper on Local Government

We need to get hold of a copy of the White Paper to see what may be relevant to us, as local government reviews are covered.

4. Upper Denby School After-School Club

Rosemary Buck, a governor at Upper Denby School, spoke of the falling attendance at the school. There are currently 38 children at the school and if they are unable to get after-school provision the school is going nowhere. Compare to Birdsedge, where such a club is in existence, attendance is now over 100 and growing year-on-year. Andy Asher confirmed that he decided to send his child to Birdsedge because of the club, even though Upper Denby is closer to home; many other parents will have made the same decision for the same reason. A study needs to be conducted; KMC have some money for this kind of activity, but not enough for the requirement here as they will need a portacabin (the club needs to be held on separate premises from the school itself as the school is very small). The Committee agreed to lend support with Area Committee and KMC for this vital money. This is urgent as the club needs to in place before the next intake in 3-4 months.

5. Funding

Can we approach the Area Committee? We need funds urgently as currently committee members are funding printing and postage costs.

D. Any Other Business

None.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 21:20 by the Chairman. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 29th May 2007 at 19:30 in a place to be decided.

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