

Denby Parish Community Action Group

The Combined Community Association of Denby, Birdsedge and High Flatts

Minutes of the Steering Committee

Tuesday 26th June 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 26th June 2007 in Friends Meeting House High Flatts by the Chairman, David Cook.

Present:

Alan Fish, Jane Fish, Andrew Brown, John Cook, David Cook [Chair], Sue Daws, David Smith

A. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Andy Asher, Joe Price, John Perry, Guy Ellis, Dawn Smith, and Alison Tribe (Denby Dale Parish Council).

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous steering committee meeting on 29th May 2007 were unanimously approved.

C. Matters Arising

1. Footpath 77

David Cook reported that, despite assurances from the Footpaths Department of KMC, this footpath is still not fully walkable, the section nearest to the A629 still being overgrown with weeds and cultivated bushes. In addition, the gate at the Windmill Lane end of the path has been re-fitted and closed, and it may be necessary to provide a stile to enable easy use for walkers. There are no footpath indicator arrows once the walker leaves the open field section of the path to show the route of the path and the entrance at the A629 end is not obvious. The group discussed whether we should complete the work ourselves, but it was decided that it would not be possible to do so without risk to cultivated plants. Signage was also discussed, and it was felt that a sign at the A629 end would not require the same 12-week required by the signs on the open field section, and that we should press KMC to erect one as soon as possible.

Action: Sue Daws to write to KMC pointing out the difficulties on the path, copying Jim Dodds, Elaine Ward and the Parish Council; David Cook to provide video or photographic evidence of the overgrown nature of the path.

2. Upper Denby School After-School Club

Andy Brown reported that interviews for staff are currently taking place and that the club will definitely be going ahead in the autumn.

3. Newsletter

The first issue of the newsletter had been delayed and the copy became redundant. More material is being gathered for a replacement first issue.

Action: David Cook to supply Alan Fish with material for the newsletter; Sue Daws to pass a photo of the cheque presentation ceremony to Alan Fish.

4. Community Plan

We need a large map of the area for use in meetings regarding the Community Plan. KMC should be able to supply a copy.

Action: Sue Daws to approach KMC for a copy of the map of Birdsedge, Denby and High Flatts.

D. Issues discussed

1. Jordan Bridge

The KMC Footpaths Department want a wooden bridge, but heritage demands stone. In fact they have already expressed the intention of erecting a wooden bridge as a temporary solution which they would remove if a stone bridge was preferred. This seems to the Group like a waste of money; the community would be paying for two bridges one of which we do not want and do not think appropriate.

KMC Design & Construction Department have drawn plans for a stone bridge. Of the three styles presented, the group considered that option 2 was the most appropriate (drawing number K214/03/01 option 2); this bridge would have three stone pillars and two large stone slabs to span the river. The head of Design & Construction is to review the designs in mid-July and decide which will be built.

It was suggested that we could do the building ourselves, discounting the KMC budget (thought to be in the region of £5,000). This would achieve two ends; KMC would save money and the local community would get the best option.

Action: David Cook to put this proposition to KMC.

2. Denby Delf

Three months have passed since the public meeting and nothing has happened! David Cook rang the Treasury Solicitor and spoke to Mr Tunicliffe, who assured David that the lease had not been signed because the Garganey Trust's trust deed says that they are limited to working in South Yorkshire. Also, Mr Tunicliffe stated that the Treasury Solicitor had received no approach from KMC suggesting that they take over the lease of the land. This information seems inconsistent with the letter written by Mark Barnes (presented at the last meeting) which stated unequivocally "We note that the Trust has signed the lease over Denby Delf".

Action: Sue Daws to write to Jim Dodds and Elaine Ward (copying the Treasury Solicitor) expressing our concern at the lack of movement on the matter and the apparent lack of communication between KMC, the Treasury Solicitor and Garganey Trust, and to ask why KMC have still not approached the Treasury Solicitor. If we get no satisfaction after writing the letter we shall call a second public meeting to highlight the situation.

3. Denby Dale Countryside Project

Andy Wickham has been in charge of this project for some years. The group is interested what activities have been undertaken and how much they have cost.

Action: Sue Daws to write to the Parish Council asking for copies of all of the annual reports of the Project and the published accounts.

4. Sellars Field Birdsedge Lane

Mr Sellars has applied for permission to build a temporary house on a different part of the field whilst waiting for permission to build a more permanent structure. He has also been diverting underground streams and watercourses to create a pond or series of ponds. These works have resulted in flooding adjacent properties, including David Smith's land and houses nearby, and there are a number of very concerned residents in

Birdsedge. It is obvious that the land cannot cope with the volume of water, and the question was asked – what structural engineering plans has he submitted?

In addition, there is a pile of rubble next to Rusby Wood, now overgrown, which is obviously uncrushed building rubble as there are pieces of glass and electrical wires in the pile. It was suggested that a second public meeting may be required on the matter of the activities on the field, but before calling it more evidence needs to be collected.

Action: Sue Daws to write letter of objection to the temporary house planning application; Sue Daws to write to KMC expressing concern over the activities and giving a specific list; David Smith to supply photographic evidence to Emma Kirby of the Huddersfield Examiner to enable her to write an article on it.

5. Funding

Tom O'Donovan had attended a meeting recently regarding funding for communities near quarries, and Sue Daws presented material suggested by Tom to the Group. The applications need to be in before September and projects need to be completed before March 2008, but it looks like we would definitely qualify for a grant.

6. Emley Show

YRCC are to have a stall at the show and it has been suggested that we share it with them.

7. Website

There has been some progress on this. A domain name, www.denbyparishaction.org.uk has been purchased and a mock-up website produced. This should be available to view online within the next couple of weeks.

8. Payments

Now that we have funds we can pay for the Meeting House hire and reimburse people for out of pocket expenses.

D. Any Other Business

None.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 21:30 by the Chairman. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 31st July 2007 at 19:30 at the Friends Meeting House, High Flatts.

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