

Denby Parish Community Action Group

The Combined Community Association of Denby, Birdsedge and High Flatts

Minutes of the Steering Committee

Tuesday 31st July 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 31st July 2007 in Friends Meeting House High Flatts by the Chairman, David Cook.

Present:

Jane Fish, John Cook, David Cook [Chair], Sue Daws, John Perry, Walter Crossley

A. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Alan Fish, Joe Price, Andrew Brown, & Guy Ellis.

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous steering committee meeting on 26th June 2007 were unanimously approved. Walter Crossley was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman.

C. Matters Arising

1. Footpath 77

There has been no response from KMC regarding the issues raised after the previous meeting. The landowner has assured Walter Crossley that the foliage will be cleared from the path. It was noted that the section of path across the field from Windmill Lane has been ploughed close to the dry-stone wall, which makes walking along that section difficult in very dry weather. It was reported that an application has been made for a diversion of the footpath; comments have to be sent by 4th August. The feeling of the meeting was that we should not agree to a diversion of a footpath that is not currently open on its original/specified path. If the diversion had been applied for originally, there would have been no problem in agreeing to it, but now so much work has been done to the footpath recently that we now need to see results.

Action: Sue Daws to write to Public Rights of Way Department at KMC (copy to Councillor Blanchard) objecting to the diversion.

2. Newsletter

The first issue of the newsletter is now ready for publication.

D. Issues discussed

1. Denby Delf

Questions were raised:

- The Treasury Solicitor should have offered the lease to KMC. Why did they not do so?
- Have KMC now asked for the lease? Did they ever intend to do so?
- Why should KMC have been involved with the Garganey Trust at all?
- Who was initially involved and why?

Councillor Jim Dodds had a meeting last Friday (27th July) with Neil Windett of the Countryside Unit, and has arranged to hold a further meeting with David Knight of the Garganey Trust on 14th August.

In the meantime, the grass needs cutting, and we need to get a botanist's report on the flora and fauna of the fields. It was agreed to allow the expenditure for such a report. It was also felt that the Group should meet with Councillor Dodds prior to his meeting with Mr Knight to further brief him.

Action: David Cook to set up meeting with Councillor Dodds; David Cook to engage the services of a botanist.

2. Jordan Bridge

David Cook reported that he had had a meeting with Justin Roche of the Public Rights of Way Department (PROW), KMC, proposing that the bridge should be built of stone, as designed by the Design and Construction Department. David had shown the design to a Construction Engineer who confirmed that the proposed mode of construction – divert the stream, build the bridge, replace the stream – would be the most appropriate method of working. David read out a letter received from PROW indicating that they nevertheless intended to erect a wooden bridge.

Action: Sue Daws to write to the PROW, requesting a response, and copying Ms Jacqui Gedman, Assistant Director for Highways, and our councillors.

3. Denby Dale Countryside Project

Denby Dale Parish Council were asked for copies of the annual reports and accounts but were unable to supply them. Kirklees Countryside Unit were then approached but no response was received within the month.

Action: Sue Daws to write to Kirklees Council Freedom of Information Unit asking if they can speed things along..

4. Sellars Field Birdsedge Lane

The date of the Planning Inspectorate Inquiry has been set for 17th August at Huddersfield Methodist Mission. The planning application for a temporary dwelling has been refused.

Action: A leaflet to be distributed to Birdsedge residents informing them of the Inquiry. Also, David to investigate the possibility of getting the Community Bus to take people to Huddersfield in order to attend.

5. Area Committee

The Area Committee is in the process of co-opting members from local residents to serve for one year, and have invited the Group to propose a nominee. It was unanimously agreed to put John Cook forward.

Action: Sue Daws to write an official letter proposing John Cook and give to David Cook for signature.

6. Emley Show

Cancelled.

7. Website

The website, www.denbyparishaction.org.uk, is now up and running, and Sue Daws gave a brief demonstration of this to members of the Group.

8. Local Planning Applications

Planning applications for Pog Hall (building extension) and Green Lane Pumping Station (conversion to a dwelling and extension of the existing building, designed in the 1950s by Mathers and based upon the Abbey on the island of Iona). It was also noted that a local company has started boring for stone in a field off Dearne Dike Lane, possibly leading to an application to begin quarrying.

Action: Sue Daws to get copies of the planning applications for further consideration.

D. Any Other Business

None.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 21:15 by the Chairman. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 28th August 2007 at 19:30 at the Friends Meeting House, High Flatts.

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