

Denby Parish Community Action Group

The Combined Community Association of Denby, Birdsedge and High Flatts

Minutes of the Steering Committee
Tuesday 25th September 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 25th September 2007 in Friends Meeting House High Flatts by the Chairman, David Cook.

Present:

David Smith, David Cook [Chair], John Cook, Sue Daws, Andrew Brown, Walter Crossley, John Perry, Idris Jones, Richard Fewstone, Keith Melbourne (KMC)

A. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Alan Fish, Jane Fish, Joe Price, Dawn Smith, Andy Asher & Guy Ellis.

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous steering committee meeting on 28th August 2007 were unanimously approved.

C. Matters Arising

1. Footpath 77

There are still no signs to guide walkers on the path. The matter has been passed onto the Area Committee, but the first meeting is not until 1st November. Keith Melbourne, KMC Liaison Officer, offered to bring the matter up with KMC Public Rights of Way department.

2. Newsletter

The first issue of the newsletter has been printed and is ready for distribution.

Volunteers offered to do house-to-house distribution in the three villages. A Kirklees Health leaflet, which inexplicably was not distributed in our area, will be included in the distribution.

3. Denby Delf

Councillor Jim Dodds reported to David Cook that he had heard nothing from Garganey Trust despite several emails to David Knight. He has now emailed the Countryside Unit and the Legal Department of KMC telling them to contact the Treasury Solicitor informing the TS that KMC are no longer recommending Garganey Trust and that KMC will take the lease instead. We await developments.

4. Jordan Bridge

Councillor Maggie Blanchard, who is charged with overseeing footpaths on the Area Committee, is convinced that a wooden bridge is inappropriate; Denby Dale Environment Trust are similarly supportive. David Cook has a meeting arranged for next week with the Design and Construction Department to discuss getting the work done. There is now a limited time before the winter floods to get the work done this year. It was suggested that Andrew Hodgson of the KMC Highways Department may be able to help resolve the impasse.

Action: Keith Melbourne to ask Andrew Hodgson if he can help, Sue Daws to write to Andrew Hodgson formally inviting him to the next Steering Committee meeting.

5. Denby Dale Countryside Project

Discussion centred on why so much money was spent on the Kirklees Light Railway and how the railway became involved with the Countryside Project in the first place.

Action: Sue Daws to write to the Countryside Project asking what work was done to occasion the expenditure of an unspecified amount of public funds.

6. Sellars Field Birdsedge Lane

The Planning Inspectorate has refused permission for the permanent wardens house. There is still confusion, however, over what permission Mr Sellars does have for the land.

Action: Sue Daws to discover the permissions which have been granted to Mr Sellars and report back to the committee.

7. Local Planning Applications

The planning application to convert Green Lane Pumping Station to a dwelling has been withdrawn.

D. Issues

A number of fields around the parish seem to be being abused:

1. Bank Lane

A field off Bank Lane in Upper Denby is being used as a garden, but also has on it containers, cows and sheep. It looks like the owner is getting ready to build a house on the land.

2. Hogg Close Road

Two containers have been placed in a field just off Windmill Lane with an awning strung between them and a caravan underneath. This looks like someone is trying to set up squatters rights. This area is within Kirklees and is of interest to us.

3. Denby Lane

Another piece of land with shacks and other temporary structures. It was also reported that there is activity on the land in the evenings, with wagons arriving with material for tipping.

4. New Denroyd Farm

The question was raised whether the regulations are being adhered to regarding the Transfer Waste Station.

Action: David Cook to supply Sue Daws with a map of the locations of these issues so that she can write to KMC asking if they know what is going on on these fields.

5. Community Plan

Keith Melbourne was introduced; he is a community support officer working with and supporting local groups, helping with funding applications, training, etc. He will help us move our Community Plan forward. Keith will bring a copy of the Farnley Tyas questionnaire along to our next meeting to show us an example of design and content. It was decided that an additional meeting was needed to get the ball rolling, and it was decided to hold a meeting just covering the Plan, on 9th October at 19:30. We will also invite Derek Liddell from YRCC to the meeting.

6. Flooding

The floods earlier this year were reviewed in Cabinet of KMC and it was decided to offer grants to people who suffered water damage. However, notification of the grant

was incomplete within the three villages, and discussion centred around how we get the information to the people who were affected before the deadline for application (30th September). It is unknown precisely how many people were affected in the three villages.

7. Upper Denby After School Club

This has been a success but is now running out of funds. It was suggested that they apply to the Area Committee for additional money.

E. Any Other Business

Idris Jones asked if we have a constitution for the Action Group, and if not why not. David Cook replied that it had been considered earlier in the year but that we could legally continue without one for the time being, and the idea had been dropped. Idris also asked to whom are we as a group answerable; David replied that we were answerable to the people of the three villages. Idris also asked about financial checks and balances; the group answered that no money was committed or spent without agreement being given by the steering committee as a whole. But the questions raised an interesting discussion about the action group, and it was decided to put these questions on the agenda of the next meeting to more fully discuss them.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 21:20 by the Chairman. The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 30th October 2007 at 19:30 at the Friends Meeting House, High Flatts. There will be an intermediate Community Plan Meeting on Tuesday 9th October at 19:30 at the Friends Meeting House, High Flatts.

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