

Denby Parish Community Action Group

The Combined Community Association of Denby, Birdsedge and High Flatts

Minutes of the Steering Committee
Tuesday 27th November 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 27th November 2007 in Friends Meeting House High Flatts by the Chairman, David Cook.

Present:

David Cook [Chair], John Cook, Sue Daws, Andrew Brown, Paul Clarke, Hannah Hunt, Keith Melbourne (KMC)

A. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Joe Price, Dawn Smith, David Smith, Andy Asher & Guy Ellis.

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous steering committee meeting on 30th October 2007 were unanimously approved after minor corrections to names.

C. Matters Arising

1. Footpath 77

It was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously that David Cook and Paul Clarke should continue to press for a resolution to the matter of Footpath 77.

2. Denby Delf

The matter is no closer to a resolution. There has been no further word from KMC legal department.

3. Jordan Bridge

Despite the solution put forward by Roy Malkin at the last meeting for a stone bridge and a rebuilt ford for farm vehicle use, the owner of the land, David Mallinson, has decided that he will accept an earlier design option which will involve the provision of a culvert and efforts to persuade him otherwise have failed. Questions were raised: would the Environment Agency approve the culvert? What are the side-effects for biodiversity?. It was felt to be very disappointing that we had failed to get the clapper bridge built after a lot of hard work by Action Group members and KMC officials alike.

4. Denby Dale Countryside Project

Sue Daws presented a copy of the minutes of September kindly supplied by Mr Andy Wickham of the Countryside Project. The minutes were read and a number of people expressed an interest in the Allotments Initiative and the "Pathways to Health Walks" in Upper Denby, Birdsedge and High Flatts. It was proposed to ask Mr Wickham for further details of these aspects of the project.

Action: Sue Daws to contact Mr Wickham and ask about the Allotments and the Health walks in the area.

5. Local Planning Applications

Sue Daws reported that she had had no reply from the local representatives to whom emails had been sent a month ago regarding the Planning Enforcement Officer's email. It was reported that the planning application concerning Dale View Farm has been granted conditionally.

6. Community Plan

The meeting on 13th November had decided that we should hold some drop-in meetings, in Birdsedge and Upper Denby, where local residents will have a first opportunity to voice opinions on a number of topics. The dates were: Birdsedge Village Hall, Wednesday 5th December between 13:00 and 15:00, and 19:00 and 21:00; and at Upper Denby Church on Thursday 6th December between 14:00 and 16:00, and 19:00 and 21:00. The Huddersfield Examiner and the Chronicle may do a piece on the drop-ins. Much of the rest of the meeting centred on the wording of the flyers to be hand-delivered to all houses in the three villages, and on the topics to be included – health, transport, road traffic, etc. Thanks were expressed to Keith Melbourne for supplying display boards for use in the drop-ins.

Action: Hannah Hunt to produce flyers and posters for use at the meetings.

D. Issues

1. Denby Dale Parish Council

David Cook reported that he had attended a Denby Dale Parish Council meeting a week or two before and when the discussion turned to the activities of our group he was excluded without giving reasons. He also reported that Councillor Jim Dodds has contacted the legal department and the Standards Committee regarding the legality of such an exclusion.

2. Non-Invited Trader Zone

It was reported that Denby Dale is already in the zone, and that Upper Denby is to be included soon.

3. Smithy Hill

We still do not know if the owner has written to KMC requesting a variation in the planning permission.

4. Village Green

Questions were raised regarding the cricket field and its status.

Action: Paul Clarke to look at the Form 44 supplied by KMC Land Charges Department, and to consult them on the status of the cricket field

E. Any Other Business

1. Sycamore Tree

It has been discovered that the Sycamore Tree which stands behind the Friends Meeting House in High Flatts has a rotten stem and may be a cause for concern. The owner of the land on which the tree is growing is more than happy for it to be chopped down, and the general consensus of the village seems to be that it should be removed. However, it is the subject of a tree preservation order even though it is not a native species; the KMC tree specialist thinks it should be preserved. It was decided to put this matter on our agenda for future consideration.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 21:15 by the Chairman. The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on a date to be decided, since our next "official" meeting would be Christmas Day.

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