

Denby Parish Community Action Group

The Combined Community Association of Denby, Birdsedge and High Flatts

Minutes of the Steering Committee
Tuesday 30th September 2008 at 20:00
At The Friends Meeting House High Flatts

Opening:

The meeting of the Denby Parish Community Action Group was called to order at 20:00 on Tuesday 30th September 2008 in Friends Meeting House High Flatts by the Chairman, David Cook.

Present:

David Cook [Chair], John Cook, Sue Daws, David Smith, Paul Clarke, Alison Tribe.

A. Apologies

Alan Fish, Jane Fish.

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous steering committee meeting on 26th August 2008 were unanimously approved, after minor corrections.

C. Matters Arising

1. Denby Delf

The weather was against us pulling the ragwort. However David Cook has photographed the seeding ragwort at Denby Delf. The Charities Commission have still not satisfactorily answered the question of the status of Garganey Trust.

2. Area Committee

Fifty-six flyers were printed and distributed by Walter Crossley before the last Area Committee meeting, but they did not draw in any “new” people; only the regulars turned up to the meeting. The fact that the pre-meeting planning meeting takes place in the afternoon makes it difficult for working people to attend and have any influence over the agenda for the official meeting. John Cook says that, according to the document providing guidance on the operation of the Area Committee it is not operating in the way it is supposed to.

3. Jordan Bridge

A site visit is planned for the coming Friday (3rd October) by John Cook, a KMC engineer, and Tim Pearson, to discuss the handrails. The Area Committee has committed to funding the handrails.

E. Any Other Business

1. Ragwort Awareness

The whole of Kirklees should be involved in trying to eradicate “this creeping menace”. The 1959 Weeds Act describes it as one of the 5 noxious weeds controlled by the act. The recommended chemical control, 24D is a hormone weedkiller and will not affect dock, grass or thistle, which are all deep-rooted, but will kill shallow-rooted weeds and plants.

2. Parish Review

A document has now been issued by KMC on the Community Governance (Parish) Review (27th August). The clerk to the Denby Dale Parish Council has suggested that a subcommittee be set up to establish the credibility of the review. The document is, in the opinion of the group, flawed, being too vague on who is to be consulted. The document came out of the pilot study commissioned by KMC, and no ward councillors featured on the pilot committee. The group should submit our ideas to the

Governance and Audit Committee whether we are asked to or not. If possible, we should try to influence the draft document as it is this that will be put to the public. Consultation of the public has been set too late in the process.

3. Community Plan

Tom O'Donovan now has the software and is willing to help us develop our questionnaire.

4. Constitution

This has now been written and signed by officers of the group, and has been given to YRCC as part of our application for further funding.

5. Training

Keith Melbourne has informed us of a number of free courses available to voluntary groups scheduled for the next couple of months, and which may be of interest to us.

6. Other matters

Brief mention was made of the Kirklees Communities Together Grant, the Huddersfield Transition Towns Steering Group (of which Sue is a member), and the Walkers are Welcome initiative (which aims to tidy up footpaths).

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 21:15 by the Chairman. The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 28th October 2008 at 19:30 in the Friends Meeting House High Flatts.

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