

Denby Parish Community Action Group

The Combined Community Association of Denby, Birdsedge and High Flatts

Minutes of the Steering Committee

Tuesday 27th January 2009 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 January 2009 in Friends Meeting House High Flatts by the Chairman, David Cook.

Present:

David Cook [Chair], John Cook, Sue Daws, Andy Brown, Alan Fish, Paul Clarke.

A. Apologies

David Smith, Walter Crossley

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous steering committee meeting on 28th October 2008 were unanimously approved.

C. Matters Arising

1. Area Committee

John Cook proposed David Cook be nominated as co-optee onto the Area Committee as there is a vacancy. Seconded and carried. David Cook agreed to be put forward.

Action: Sue Daws to write a letter to Julie McDowell at Kirklees Council proposing that David Cook be considered for the vacant post.

2. Jordan Bridge

Insurance cover requirement is causing a delay in completing the handrail, as higher cover is required than Tim currently has. Quotations have been requested.

3. Awards for All

We have applied for an award under this scheme but are waiting to hear. The money will be spent paying Tom O'Donovan for preparing and analysing the community plan questionnaire. We have also received an extension until the 31st May for spending the money originally granted by the YRCC.

4. Telephone boxes

The situation regarding the telephone boxes in High Flatts and Upper Denby is still not known.

Action: Alan Fish to discover what is going on.

5. Parish Review

KMC received only 150 replies to the Parish Review Questionnaire, out of a potential 80,000 population. The software used for the online questionnaire was poor and crashed several times before the user was able to save it, causing a lot of frustration and almost certainly reducing the number of completed forms. The analysis is due on 29th January.

E. Any Other Business

1. Denby Delf

During the winter, a resident of Upper Denby complained to the Ward representatives about the poor state of the path in Denby Delf, caused by a local farmer driving his tractor through the sodden fields. John Cook looked at the supposed damage but found only a solid stone road. David Cook spoke to Neil Windett about this, and the fact that

no management has taken place on the land since the lease with Garganey Trust was signed in January 2008. It was decided by Neil Windett and David Cook that Neil should wait until March to contact the Treasury regarding the poor management of the land. Garganey Trust have apparently been applying for funding for operating on Denby Delf.

2. Public Rights of Way (PRoW)

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan should have been drawn up in 2007, but has not yet been completed. The PRoW forum is meeting tonight (27th January). Paul Clarke re-iterated that the Walkers Are Welcome Scheme should be rolled out in our area at the earliest opportunity; as well as the obvious benefits, it is a way of obtaining improvement money for footpaths.

Action: Sue Daws to dig out info on Walkers Are Welcome and circulate.

3. Community Plan Questionnaire

The rest of the evening was spent discussing the latest version of the draft, prepared by Tom O'Donovan. A few points were noted: there are no questions about commerce in the parish, an obvious way of encouraging the provision of local jobs; the internet/broadband questions do not ask if the land-based broadband provision is adequate.

Action: Sue Daws to write to Tom O'Donovan requesting the inclusion of a couple more questions, and some rewording of others.

4. Senior Citizens

The Anchor Trust helps older people to live independently in their own homes. Keep Warm Packs (a blanket, thermos mug, etc.) have been supplied, and Birdsedge Chapel will have some for distribution this week. There has been a lot of interest. However, £5,000 has been provided for these packs (which buys 300 packs), to cover the whole of Denby Dale Parish Council area, and there are an estimated 4,000 older people in that area. Clearly the funding for this initiative falls well short of the requirement.

5. Rural Action Yorkshire

Rural Action Yorkshire is the new name of the YRCC. We have received our certificate of membership (for a small fee) which entitles us to advice from RAY.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 21:05 by the Chairman. The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 24th February 2009 at 19:30 in the Friends Meeting House High Flatts.

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