

# Denby Parish Community Action Group

The Combined Community Association of Denby, Birdsedge and High Flatts

## Minutes of the Steering Committee

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 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 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009 in Friends Meeting House High Flatts by the Chairman, David Cook.

### Present:

David Cook [Chair], John Cook, Sue Daws, William Fish, David Smith.

#### A. Apologies

Paul Clarke, Andy Brown

#### B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous steering committee meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2009 were unanimously approved.

#### C. Matters Arising

##### 1. Area Committee

Julie McDowell has received the nomination sent after the last meeting and took it to the Area Committee for their consideration..

**Action:** John Cook to ask for a status report.

##### 2. Birdsedge Village Hall

The lottery funding fell short of the required amount, and additional money is required to complete the refurbishment of the hall. The management committee is selling name plaques to try to make up the shortfall, but so far are not honouring the people who created the hall 30 years ago.

##### 3. Jordan Bridge

Insurance is no longer an issue as long as a Ranger is with Tim Pearson when he erects the handrail, so the fitting can go ahead.

##### 4. Awards for All

We have been accepted for funding and are to receive £10,000 from Awards4All. We need to spend the original money from YRCC (now RAY) and it has been suggested that a newsletter to keep everyone in the three villages up-to-date on the work we are doing would be appropriate.

##### 5. Telephone boxes

Still no news on the situation regarding the telephone boxes in High Flatts and Upper Denby.

##### 6. Parish Review

The next stage of the consultation has been received and we have until 8<sup>th</sup> May to respond. The comparison with South Yorkshire still stands, and we should emphasise the “small and distinct” nature of our community. (a) we are not a community with Clayton West; (b) South Yorkshire manages the finances very well with parishes as small as 400 people; (c) apathy about local governance is rife because people feel divorced from the parish council – it has been 10 years since we actually had a chance to vote for councillors; (d) we cannot see what the parish council does for Birdsedge, Denby and High Flatts.

##### 7. Denby Delf

David Cook has contacted Neil Windett again, as the resident of Upper Denby who complained about alleged damage to the Delf has been complaining again about farm muck being dumped there.

**8. Public Rights of Way (PRoW)**

Can we ask Roy Malkin to come to a meeting soon? The Improvement Plan situation needs clarification. PRoW has no money, as all money for this financial year has been spent. Should we concentrate on our area? Maureen Harrison is keen to include our area in the Penistone walkers booklet, but paths need work doing to them. An East Peak Initiative grant could finance this, and it is only necessary to apply in principal initially. The KMC Youth Officer is also very keen to find meaningful work for young people to do in the community. For instance, in North Wood (FP74B) we need to dig out a bank and erect a stile; and there is tidying up work around Jordan Bridge to be done.

Action: David Cook to contact the Youth Officer.

**9. Community Plan Questionnaire**

No reply yet from Tom O'Donovan. We need to get it printed and distributed soon.

**10. Senior Citizens**

The turnout at Birdsedge Methodist Hall for Senior Citizens' Warm Packs exceeded the packs available, and several people went away empty-handed. The Area Committee has provided a further £2,000 for additional packs. In the next financial year, consideration will be given for further packs to be distributed next winter

**E. Any Other Business**

**1. Firth Lane Sign**

The sign was erected by the planning department but was wrong as the planning officer was unable to find Firth Lane on any map and so named it Quaker Bottom instead. David Cook uprooted the sign and took it back to the planning department. They have said that if we can get concrete evidence of the name they will change it. John Cook ran through the available evidence, such as deeds and old letters, and is confident there is enough to satisfy the planners.

**2. Kirklees Environment Partnership**

David Cook attended the Annual General Meeting of the Kirklees Environment Partnership, and joined the organisation. He was elected to the Steering Group of KEP.

**3. School Gardening**

We should be involved in promoting growing for children. John Cook is a governor of Upper Denby school and will bring the matter up at the next meeting. Birdsedge school has a small plot which needs renovation. John Cook and David Cook went on a visit to Heeley City Farm Sheffield and were very impressed with it.

**Action:** David Cook to contact the head of Birdsedge school with a view to meeting to discuss the garden.

**4. Neighbourhood Watch in Upper Denby**

David Cook received a telephone call from the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator in Birdsedge asking for a list of all OAPs and vulnerable people in Upper Denby as she wished to visit them. John Cook spoke to the Ward Councillors and the local police, including Inspector Harvey, and it was found that the NW had exceeded its authority and was not to visit people in Upper Denby without prior arrangement, to be co-ordinated by John Cook.

**5. Community Grants Funding Scheme**

This scheme has £15,500 per ward to distribute, maximum £3,000 per project. The intention is to stimulate community activities and promote local groups. Any not-for-profit groups can apply. Applications up to £1,000 will be fast-tracked. We have a few suggestions: (a) Football field wall in Birdsedge needs repair; (b) promote a grow-your-own initiative (is there any land available?) perhaps concentrating on the schools to begin with.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 21:25 by the Chairman. The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 at 19:30 in the Friends Meeting House High Flatts.

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