

# Denby Parish Community Action Group

The Combined Community Association of Denby, Birdsedge and High Flatts

## Minutes of the Steering Committee

Tuesday 31<sup>st</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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 in Friends Meeting House High Flatts by the Chairman, David Cook.

### Present:

David Cook [Chair], John Cook, Sue Daws, Alan Fish, Jane Fish, Paul Clarke, Bill Cross (Rural Action Yorkshire).

#### A. Apologies

Andy Brown

#### B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous steering committee meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009 were unanimously approved.

#### C. Matters Arising

##### 1. Awards For All

The chairman welcomed Bill Cross from Rural Action Yorkshire who attended as a follow up to correspondence received. Bill Cross expressed concern that the award from the Rural Social and Community Programme had not been spent by the due date; the fund is being wound up on 31<sup>st</sup> March and all money has to have been spent by then, or returned. We knew that we would have to return the original award of £4,500, and had applied for an Awards4All grant to support the Community Plan project in its stead. However, Awards4All money is only available for projects which are newly started and Bill Cross had come to the meeting to discover how much work we had actually done on the Community Plan. It transpired that the Denby Dale Parish Council had phoned both the RAY and the Awards4All organisers to inform them of what we were doing. John Cook explained the situation, that we had been waiting on software for constructing and analysing the questionnaire and had been relying on RAY to provide us with the help on this, via Ton O'Donovan. It appears Tom has recently left RAY and no-one else is as yet trained up in the use of the software, and this has delayed us.

**Action:** Sue Daws to write to Awards4All (contact to be supplied by Bill Cross) explaining what has so far been done and why there has been such delay. John Cook to arrange to return the original award money to RAY, as had already been agreed.

##### 2. Area Committee

David Cook has still not heard whether his nomination has been successful.

**Action:** David Cook to write to the chair of the Area Committee requesting an invitation to the private planning meeting which takes place on 1<sup>st</sup> April, prior to the next public meeting.

##### 3. Birdsedge Village Hall

The management committee have asked the Area Committee for a grant to make up the shortfall which will pay for a ground source heat pump and under floor heating.

##### 4. Jordan Bridge

The handrails have been installed and the rebuilding of the bridge is now complete.

**5. Telephone boxes**

Still no news.

**6. Denby Delf**

David Cook has met with Neil Windett and they are to organise a meeting with Elaine Ward, and John Cook to discuss the way forward, which may include contacting the Treasury Solicitor

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

The PRoW Improvement Plan (which was required to have been published by September 2007) is still not forthcoming. Every Council in England and Wales has completed a plan except Kirklees. Paul Clarke has been writing emails and letters to KMC for some considerable time about this to no avail; should we put our weight behind them? The editor of the Penistone and District Explorers Guide has expressed an interest in including the paths around High Flatts, Upper Denby and Birdsedge in the next edition of the guide, so it is pertinent.

**Action:** Sue Daws to email Justin Roche asking for a publication date of the Improvement Plan.

**8. Firth Lane Sign**

A heritage sign has now been erected indicating the Friends Meeting House, paid for by the Area Committee. The sign is large because it is the appropriate size for an A-road, but it does flap in the wind and the council have agreed to reduce its height. There is no news of the Firth Lane road sign yet, but KMC are happy with the name evidence John Cook was able to produce

**Action:** Sue Daws to send a note to the head of Building Control saying that the sign needs to read Firth Lane No Through Road – enough public money has been spent on providing incorrect signs (the previous incorrect sign was uprooted by a resident and taken into KMC in frustration a couple of months ago!).

**E. Any Other Business**

**1. School Gardening**

David Cook has been to see the Head of Birdsedge School and has another visit planned for tomorrow to discuss what can be done.

**2. Walkers Are Welcome**

The Labour Party are supporting this initiative. Paul Clarke attended a meeting at KMC and it was agreed that the initiative should be bottom up not top down. There will be a public meeting in May. We could do our bit of the parish independently. PRoW has £40,000 for the whole of Kirklees, and all of the budget for 2009/10 has already been earmarked..

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 21:10 by the Chairman. The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at 19:30 in the Friends Meeting House High Flatts.

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