

Denby Parish Community Action Group

The Combined Community Association of Denby, Birdsedge and High Flatts

Minutes of the Steering Committee

Tuesday 28th April 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 28th April 2009 in Friends Meeting House High Flatts by the Chairman, David Cook.

Present:

David Cook [Chair], John Cook, Sue Daws, Peter Crosland, Ann Siemianowicz, William Fish, Paul Clarke.

A. Apologies

Andy Brown, Alan Fish, Jane Fish

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous steering committee meeting on 31st March 2009 were unanimously approved.

C. Matters Arising

1. Awards For All

David Cook explained the situation at the moment to the group. We can apply to Awards for All again once we have returned the £10,000 awarded. However the application process is protracted and the amount of money available each month varies so it may take time. The Area Committee looks like the best source of funding at the moment. We also have to return the original award of £4,500 to Rural Action Yorkshire, but this needs to be clarified with Bill Cross. We debated how much we should apply to the Area Committee for.

Action: Sue Daws to email Sally Teasdale, grant funding officer for the Area Committee for a fitness assessment and application form.

2. Area Committee

The Area Committee chair refused to allow David Cook to attend the secret planning meeting.

Action: Sue Daws to email Elaine Ward, copy Julie McDowell, to stress the importance of involving the community fully in its work; the meetings should be completely open to the public to ensure all matters of note are tabled on the agenda.

3. Telephone boxes

The High Flatts box has been removed although the Upper Denby one is still in place. The Parish Council had refused to adopt the boxes; we are now at the mercy of poor mobile reception in the area.

4. Denby Delf

David Cook will meet Neil Windett on 30th April and will discuss a time for the next meeting.

5. Firth Lane Sign

The tussle over the sign for Firth Lane has so far resulted in David Cook being threatened with prosecution for uprooting the original sign.

6. Public Rights of Way (PRoW)

It was reported that a footpath near Denby Hall Farm has been blocked by a large timber.

E. Any Other Business

1. Planning

A polytunnels has been erected on a field in Upper Denby near Denby Hall Farm; as far as we know, no planning permission has been granted. Other potential planning violation were noted, in Bank Lane and a caravan/log cabin at Exley Gate.

Action: David Cook to supply map reference, so that Sue Daws can write to Planning Enforcement.

2. Bank Lane

Change of use has been applied for to change field to a garden, and the course of a wall was altered taking some of the bridleway that runs along it. David Cook has contacted PRow about this already.

3. Seat on Falledge Lane

Area Committee funded this; once it is installed in the place intended the only view will be of a hedge. They idea is to replace a seat in the same location as the original, but the hedge has grown since; moreover, the site is very exposed. It would be better if the seat were moved to a more sheltered spot with a beautiful view, further along the Lane.

4. Local Development Framework

The Kirklees Council consultation period for the LDF is now past, however there is a groundswell of public opinion in Skelmanthorpe and other villages against the options in the LDF to arbitrarily place 37,000 houses and large industrial units on greenbelt land. None of the options put forward were suitable for rural areas. The various groups went along to the Parish Council meeting to voice their concerns but the parish clerk would only allow one person to speak in front of the council instead of one from each group. A meeting is to be held on 6th May by the combined groups; David Cook from our group will speak on affordable housing needs. The Kirklees Environment Partnership, of which David Cook is a member, has already expressed its concerns over the carbon footprint of such developments. We discussed the Barnsley model, where estates are built with district heating fed by biomass boilers using wood pellets; they have already passed the government's 2020 targets for carbon emissions and in a few years time will surpass the 2050 targets. They are a model for all new housing developments. There is some district heating in Huddersfield, from the incinerator – question the emissions from this.

5. John Springer's Laburnums, Bank Lane

These are dead; they may have been poisoned or just badly pruned; its is possible they may regrow later in the year – will have to wait and see. They are supposed to be protected because of the Conservation Area, but the council has not protected them. The group discussed the many inconsistent decisions over tree orders being allowed or enforced by the tree officer.

6. Pog Hall Farm

This is now in the Conservation Area. The owners applied to alter the barn last year and it was turned down, but have now reapplied and the council have recommended to allow the application even though the only difference in the two applications is a 2 degree change to the pitch of the roof. From a heritage point of view the barn is 19th century, of a particular shape for the period, and altering it in the way intended will alter its shape completely, not preserving or enhancing it as the Conservation Area requires.

7. Skelmanthorpe Community Action Group et al

The meeting of the combined action groups asked each group to deliver leaflets in their areas. We have volunteers to do this.

8. Walkers Are Welcome

Paul Clarke has been onto Parish Council and they have agreed to take the Walkers are Welcome proposals forward. There is a public meeting on 19th May with a WaW representative in the Parish Council Chambers 1t 19:30, and information on WaW is now available on the Kirklees Council website. Comments have to be in by 15th May.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 21:30 by the Chairman. The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 26th May 2009 at 19:30 in the Friends Meeting House High Flatts.

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