

Denby Parish Community Action Group

The Combined Community Association of Denby, Birdsedge and High Flatts

Minutes of the Steering Committee

Thursday 30th June 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 Thursday 30th June 2009 in Friends Meeting House High Flatts by the Chairman, David Cook.

Present:

David Cook [Chair], John Cook, Sue Daws, Peter Crosland, Paul Clarke.

A. Apologies

David Smith

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous steering committee meeting on 28th May 2009 were unanimously approved, with minor amendments.

C. Matters Arising

1. Awards For All

£10,000 was returned to Awards for All on 22 June. The rent of the Quaker Meeting House has now been paid up to the end of March 2009; there are additional costs outstanding, such as the cost of the website. We have also received documents from the Area Committee regarding grant applications.

Action: Sue Daws to email Area Committee documents to John Cook.

2. Area Committee

In reply to our email to the new chair of the Area Committee, stressing the importance of involving the community fully in its work, the chair responded that changes would be made to the way the committee conducted its business.

3. Telephone boxes

We can register our interest in keeping the phone box at www.BT.com/payphones, using dummy number – 2008 1101 9876543212345.

Action: Sue Daws to register our interest online.

4. Denby Delf

Neil Windett has sent a set of photographs to the Treasury Solicitor (who has asked for proof that the land is not being managed), although he did not consult John Cook first who has additional proofs to send. Although not part of the existing public right of way (which crosses the field parallel to the road), people of the village have been using the gate on the road for over 40 years; now, it has been padlocked against them.

Action: John Cook to arrange another meeting with Neil Windett.

5. Firth Lane Sign

No news on the status of this.

Action: John Cook to chase.

6. Public Rights of Way (PRoW)

Ongoing.

7. Planning

Paul Wood, Planning Enforcement Officer, has been speaking to John Cook and they will inspect the three sites.

A further planning issue has come to light. Planning approval was given for a farmer to build a field shelter and a gravel road across a field just off Windmill Lane, next to a scheduled ancient monument (Castle Hill); this has ruined the view of the ancient monument from the south of the site as the road forms a scar on the hillside, and the building is prominent. English Heritage are supposed to protect ancient monuments but apparently Keith Miller of EH gave his blessing to the proposal, presumably without even viewing the site. This comes under Greenbelt permitted development, which is granted to farmers so as not to impede legitimate agricultural need. A farmer can apply for Prior Approval, which means that if the council does not object within 28 days he can go ahead and start building. The farmer is required to notify, but we do not believe such notice was posted on Windmill Lane.

Action: Sue Daws to write to John Ritchie asking why permission was given for this, and send photos.

8. Bank Lane

Change of use has been applied for to change field to a garden at the end of the field (end of Greenfield Close). David Cook has contacted PRow about this already, and is still investigating.

9. Pog Hall Farm

The planning application has been approved.

10. Walkers Are Welcome

Paul Clarke has been in correspondence with Richard Brook. Paul Clarke's expressed opinion is that we should implement Walkers Are Welcome in stages, doing our small area first, and gradually encouraging other areas to adopt it. However the parish council so far has not agreed on this path.

E. Any Other Business

1. Rights of Way

Path off Bank Lane in Upper Denby is very overgrown. At the moment its status is pending as a claimed Public Right of Way, so not officially adopted yet. We need to get the proper modification sorted quickly.

Action: Paul Clarke to draft a letter for Sue Daws to send to the PRow department asking about pending rights of way.

2. Community Plan

We are now planning to apply to the Area Committee and Awards for All for a grant.

3. 45 Bank Lane Upper Denby

The owner has removed stone slates off the stable roof and has proposed to replace them with concrete imitation slates; there appears to be no reason for doing this. The house stands in a Conservation Area, and the purpose of such an area is to preserve the visual amenity, therefore stone slates should be used. John Cook has already discussed this with the owner and the planning department, as such a precedent could be used to change not only the stables but indeed houses as well. The planning enforcement officer has admitted that the owner should not have been told he could use concrete slates, and that he should reapply for permission to do so.

4. Birdsedge Village Hall

There is a problem with the way that the drains have been fitted and this is causing a blocked drain and considerable inconvenience to householders next to the hall. John Cook has been asked to look at the problem.

5. Various documents recently published

Rural Community Guidance

Building Britain's Future

LGA Building Britain's Future

Taylor Review response of the government

Conservative Association Centralisation Green Paper

Adjournment:

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

Minutes submitted by: Sue Daws [Secretary]

Approved by: David Cook [Chairman]