

Denby Parish Community Action Group

The Combined Community Association of Denby, Birdsedge and High Flatts

Minutes of the Steering Committee

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

Present:

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

A. Apologies

Andy Brown.

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous steering committee meeting on 30th June 2009 were unanimously approved, with minor amendments.

C. Matters Arising

1. Funding

Area Committee may require match funding; We have received paperwork from Awards For All for a further application. Decided to ask £1500 from the AC to cover our running costs.

2. Telephone boxes

Only local authorities can adopt a phone box; will have to contact Charles Smith at KMC to see if this is possible,

3. Denby Delf

Last week (Friday and Saturday) the delf was cut and the grass baled and carted away by contractors for Garganey Trust. The grass was sold to Tim Gascoigne of Flockton. They did not pull the flowering ragwort before they cut it, and they cut it too soon (should be mid-August to allow wild flower seeds to ripen). Also, it is not advisable to cut whilst the ground is very wet – it was so wet one of the contractors got his car stuck in the mud. They have left big ruts in the field because of the damp conditions, and also destroyed a small sapling that had been in the middle of the field.

Action: John Cook, David Cook and other ward councillors to decide on next course of action. Get Neil Windett to see the results.

4. Firth Lane Sign

John Cook emailed Gillian Cohen but has had no reply.

5. Public Rights of Way (PRoW)

Paul Clarke has reported a fence has been built (by Mr Samson) halfway across a footpath in Bank Lane – not possible to walk along the path normally, have to walk sideways. Unfortunately the path is not yet on the definitive map, although Walter Crossley had done all the work on the path, and had encouraged people to fill in the necessary forms to get the path adopted; the forms definitely went into KMC but nothing had been heard from the council, and now Walter has sadly died. KMC admitted the path is a good candidate for a public right of way but the matter is still in bureaucratic limbo.

Action: SD to email PRoW based upon Paul's original email about this.

6. Planning

SD sent photos in a email to John Ritchie who has passed the email onto enforcement.

Action: Sue Daws to contact Keith Miller of the English Heritage to ask why permission was given for this, and send photos.

7. Bank Lane

David Cook has not been able to contact Steve Frost at KMC, who was supposed to have looked at the matter but appears to have done nothing. Someone has been turning a field into a farm with the building on skid to show that they are not illegal.

Action: David Cook to contact Steve Frost.

8. Pog Hall Farm

The planning application has been approved. This is another example of planning allowing developments against the principles of the Conservation Area. It is not "enhancing and preserving"

9. Walkers Are Welcome

A further meeting held in July to discuss the Walkers are Welcome proposal was not well-attended, perhaps because it was not adequately publicised. The next meeting is at 7pm on September 15th at the Skelmanthorpe office of the Parish Council when a steering group will be formed. All welcome to attend and take part - or just listen. The movement needs the support of the Area Committee. Bizarrely, some people in the 'walking community' are not in favour the proposed WaW initiative in Denby Dale Parish area. Please note that if Parish-wide project does not succeed, there's no reason why a smaller WaW project could not be set up in the Upper Denby/Birdsedge/High Flatts area.

10. Community Plan

David Cook has a lot of material which needs organising.

11. 45 Bank Lane

The stone slates have been reinstated. Concluded satisfactorily.

12. Birdsedge Village Hall

David Smith has spoken to the person who dug the drains for the Village Hall, and confirms that the connections were approved by KMC. When the drains were reported blocked, an investigator was called in who used a camera to determine that a large mass of chip-pan fat had solidified in the drain; the investigator found the blockage more than 30 feet away from the hall; The blockage was cleared and there has been no recurrence we believe. There was a discussion regarding whose responsibility it was to pay for such work, and the conclusion was that a blocked drain was a community problem and the community should contribute to the cost, which at the moment is being borne by the elderly lady who suffered the consequences of the blockage.

E. Any Other Business

None

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 21:30 by the Chairman. The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 25th August 2009 at 19:30 in the Friends Meeting House High Flatts.

Minutes submitted by: Sue Daws [Secretary]

Approved by: David Cook [Chairman]