

Denby Parish Community Action Group

The Combined Community Association of Denby, Birdsedge and High Flatts

Minutes of the Steering Committee

Tuesday 15th January 2008 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 15th January 2008 in Friends Meeting House High Flatts by the Chairman, David Cook.

Present:

David Cook [Chair], John Cook, Sue Daws, Andrew Brown, Hannah Hunt, Keith Melbourne (KMC), Councillor Graham Turner (DDPC), Alison Tribe

A. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Stephen Slater, David Smith, Andy Asher & Guy Ellis.

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous steering committee meeting on 27th November 2007 were unanimously approved.

C. Matters Arising

1. Denby Delf

It is understood that Garganey Trust have still not withdrawn from the proffered lease of Denby Delf, and are still not communicating with either Jim Dodds or the Treasury Solicitor. The question was posed whether we should take the initiative and contact the Treasury Solicitor ourselves., but it was decided to talk to KMC Legal Department first. It was pointed out that the land needs better management urgently, perhaps grazing it with sheep, prior to spring.

Action: David to liaise with Neil Windett in order to get permission to graze sheep on the land; Sue Daws to contact Mark Barnes at KMC Legal Department for a copy of the letter he sent to the Treasury Solicitor in December.

2. Denby Dale Countryside Project

Sue Daws had received a reply from Andy Wickham regarding Allotments which reported that there were currently no allotments in the area. Before we pursue this further it might be better to discover if there is local interest in such an initiative.

3. Green Lane Pumping Station Planning Application

David Cook reported that the application, withdrawn last year, has again been submitted; since time was short he himself drafted a letter to the Heritage Protection Team in London describing the building and its origins and asking whether it was a candidate for Listed status to protect it from inappropriate development. He followed the letter with a phone call and received an encouraging response. Alison Tribe reported that she understood outline planning permission had been granted.

4. Sellars Field

It was reported that Mr Sellars has submitted another appeal, we are unsure to which planning refusal this relates.

5. Community Plan

The drop-in sessions at Birdsedge Village Hall and Upper Denby Church were well attended despite the bad weather.

Action: Hannah Hunt to type up the suggestions given at the sessions for discussion at the next planning meeting, as a draft questionnaire.

6. Denby Dale Parish Council

David Cook reported that he had attended a Denby Dale Parish Council meeting recently and when the discussion turned to the activities of our group he had been excluded without any reasons being given. He asked Councillor Graham Turner why he had been excluded. Councillor Turner replied that the only reason that David had been excluded was that he, Councillor Turner, had been asked by certain members of the Council to be able to speak freely without compromising themselves, and that that was the sole reason for the exclusion. He also assured us that the letter addressed to residents of Denby, Birdsedge and High Flatts and included in the distribution, to some houses in the villages, of the glossy brochure *Focus on the Dale*, November 2007, was genuine in its support of the Denby Parish Community Action Group's goal of producing a Community Plan. The Committee expressed their thanks for the support of the Parish Council.

7. Non-Invited Trader Zone

This zone has still not been extended to Birdsedge, High Flatts and Denby.

8. Smithy Hill

Paul Wood, enforcement officer at KMC, spoke to David Cook regarding this matter. Apparently there were two planning permissions relating to this property, and the condition to remove trees and demolish and rebuild a wall were attached to only the first of these. Mr Wood recommended that we speak to the owner/builder of the property to see if he could finish off the wall with appropriate stone toppings (instead of flat as at present); he also stated that the trees could stay and the tarmac'd roadway need not be built.

Action: David Cook to speak to the builder

9. Village Green

More information about the cricket field had been discovered. If the cricket and social teams using the land become defunct in the future, then the land will revert back to the Crosland Family.

10. Sycamore Tree

No further forward with this. Since the tree is the subject of a tree preservation order we have two options: 1) appeal to the Secretary of State; 2) appeal to Jim McDonald of KMC. The question was considered – are KMC liable for any damage or injury caused by a branch falling from this tree if they have refused to allow it to be removed? The Company insuring the Quaker Meeting House have asked for a report on the state of the tree

Action: David Cook to get advice from Ramsey Bloom.

E. Any Other Business

Should we have a steering committee for the Community Plan which meets more frequently and can push things along? To be discussed at the next meeting.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 20:40 by the Chairman. The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 29th January 2008 at 19:30 in the Friends Meeting House High Flatts.

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