

- 4.5 As agreed at the last meeting, the Clerk submitted comments on the Local Development Framework Core Strategy: Issues and Options document. The Parish Council may wish to submit further comments when Darlington Borough Council issues the Core Strategy: Preferred Options document. The Clerk will continue to monitor progress on the Local Development Framework.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

For information

Constable Julian Brown and Special Constable Martin Wheelan joined the meeting.

Constable Brown is the Local Beat Officer for the whole of the rural area around Darlington. He started in this new post in February 2007.

There were 24 reported crimes in and around Sadberge during 2007. These included 16 thefts, 3 burglaries and 2 cases of criminal damage.

There have been 5 reported crimes in and around Sadberge so far in 2008.

The Police are concerned about "bogus official" crimes. These tend to be targeted at people aged 75 and over. It was suggested that a presentation could be made at one of the Eat 'n' Meet lunches on the first Tuesday of each month.

5. Darlington Borough Council's budget for 2008-09

- 5.1 Sadberge Parish Council noted Ward Councillor Brian Jones' support for the lobby to retain grants for parish councils.
- 5.2 Darlington Borough Council is going to review the way that it gives grants to rural communities. During the Cabinet meeting on 19-Feb-2008 the Leader of the Council, John Williams, implied that parish plans will have a role in determining how the grants are awarded.
- 5.3 Individual parish councils will need to compile information about their specific requirements for grant support from Darlington Borough Council. This will be discussed at the Darlington Association of Parish Councils (DAPC) meeting on Thursday 6-Mar-2008.
- 5.4 This subject will be put on the agenda for the April meeting of Sadberge Parish Council.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

6. Bus service consultation

- 6.1 Following a campaign by local residents, Sadberge Parish Council and Ward Councillor Brian Jones, Darlington Borough Council has put £80,000 back into its budget for 2008-09 to support a bus service for Sadberge and the surrounding area.
- 6.2 The Parish Council thanked all the villagers who supported the campaign by writing letters and attending meetings. It was noted that more than twenty Sadberge residents were present at the Darlington Borough Council Cabinet meeting on 19-Feb-2008.
- 6.3 The Parish Council welcomed Darlington Borough Council's decision to continue to support a bus service for Sadberge and the surrounding area, provided that Sadberge residents are consulted about the design of the bus service.
- 6.4 The Clerk outlined a proposed approach to the consultation process.
 - Hold a meeting involving Darlington Borough Council and all the relevant Parish Councils and Parish Meetings to discuss the issues.
 - Devise three or four options for the bus timetable.
 - Hold an Open Meeting to present the options to Sadberge residents.
 - Use response forms to obtain the views of Sadberge residents.
- 6.5 The following points were made during the discussion.
 - Asking people where they would like to be able to go by bus is likely to result in a wide range of needs and opinions that will be difficult to analyse. It is better to come up with a number of timetable options based on our existing understanding of local people's needs and the possible bus routes, and then to ask people to give their reactions to those options.

- Darlington Borough Council will make the final decision on the bus timetable, as they will be paying for the contract.
 - Arriva and Darlington Borough Council are currently undertaking a review of the bus network around Darlington. The new bus service for Sadberge needs to link in with the outcome of that review.
 - The first aim should be to ensure that the new bus service meets the needs of those people who have to rely on the bus on a regular basis.
 - The second aim should be to encourage people to make journeys by bus rather than using their cars.
 - The bus needs to do a "work / college / school" run first thing in the morning and two "work / college / school" runs at the end of the afternoon.
 - Does the bus need to go on the same route every day? For example, it would be useful if the bus could go in to the centre of Middleton St. George on at least a couple of afternoons per week.
 - Does the bus need to go in to the centre of Darlington? An alternative might be to have a frequent service to Middleton St. George and Whinfield, from where people can get other buses in to Darlington town centre.
 - What is going to happen in the longer term? Will the case for retaining a bus service have to be made every few years?
- 6.6 Due to pressures of other work during March, Darlington Borough Council's Transport Policy Manager has suggested that the consultation process should begin in April.
- 6.7 It was agreed that the consultation process suggested by the Clerk (and described in 6.4 above) is a sensible one. The Clerk will continue to keep in touch with the appropriate Darlington Borough Council officers. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

7. Closure of Sadberge Post Office

- 7.1 Due to Arthur Sanders' retirement, the Sadberge Post Office and Shop will close on 10-Apr-2008. The Post Office has said that they view this as a temporary closure, and they are currently advertising for someone to take over as Subpostmaster for Sadberge.
A Sadberge resident has expressed interest in the role if suitable conditions can be agreed.
- 7.2 Anyone taking over as Subpostmaster will need to provide suitable premises. The current village Post Office will not be available, as it is in the front room of Arthur Sanders' house.
- 7.3 A representative of the Post Office will be coming to look at the village hall towards the end of March.
- 7.4 The Parish Council agreed to ask the Sadberge Village Hall Association to consider whether space could be found in the village hall for a Post Office counter.
- 7.5 It was agreed that Sadberge Parish Council and the Sadberge Village Hall Association will organise a party in the village hall on the evening of Friday 18-Apr-2008 to recognise the contribution that Arthur and Meg Sanders have made to the village.
A planning meeting will be held in the village hall at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 25-Mar-2008.
Local residents will be informed about the party by means of a flyer delivered to all homes in Sadberge. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 7.6 The Parish Council agreed to spend up to £100 on a gift for Arthur and Meg Sanders. **ACTION:** Councillor Scaife
- It was noted that this expenditure is allowable under the "free resource" legislation, which allows a parish council to spend up to a specified limit on anything which in the opinion of the parish council is in the interests of the parish, or any part of it, or is in the interests of all or some of its inhabitants.
- 7.7 The Clerk reported that Felix House Surgery is investigating how to continue to deliver prescriptions to Sadberge residents after the Post Office closes, and hopes to be able to make deliveries directly to patients' homes.

8. Parking in The Orchard

- 8.1 There is very limited space for parking cars in The Orchard, and this has been causing difficulties for some time. A local resident has asked if it might be possible to turn some of the grassed area into additional parking spaces.
- 8.2 It was agreed to investigate the possibility of using some of the grassed area to create about five additional parking spaces.
The Clerk will check who owns the grassed area. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

9. Condition of the village green at Spring Garth and the road leading to Well House

- 9.1 The Darlington Borough Council inspector has marked up the road adjacent to the village green at Spring Garth, but the area marked for repair only covers the worst of the potholes and does not include the area where the road has subsided. The Clerk has asked Darlington Borough Council to extend the scope of the repairs to include the area where the road has subsided.
- 9.2 Darlington Borough Council has again said that it will not install a kerb along the edge of the road adjacent to the village green at Spring Garth.
- 9.3 Richard Bond is still willing to deal with the mound of earth that has been thrown up on the village green.
- 9.4 The Clerk will find out how much it would cost to install a kerb.
ACTION: A Mackenzie

10. Missing posts at the edge of the village green

- 10.1 Brian Graham, the head of Street Scene in Darlington Borough Council, has agreed that the Borough Council will replace the two missing posts on this occasion. Future maintenance and repairs will be the Parish Council's responsibility.
- 10.2 It was agreed that Sadberge Parish Council will take responsibility for the future maintenance and repairs of the posts.

11. Village Festival

- 11.1 It was agreed to organise a village festival on Saturday 21st June 2008, which is Midsummer Day.
- 11.2 The format of this year's festival will be similar to last year's, but there will be a contingency plan for bad weather.
- 11.3 The next meeting of the Festival Committee is provisionally scheduled to be held in Sadberge Village Hall at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 18-Mar-2008.
- 11.4 The Clerk will ask Darlington Borough Council for permission to use Town Farm Field for parking on the day of the festival.
ACTION: A Mackenzie
- 11.5 Councillor Scaife will submit the forms to the Public Event Safety Advisory Group (PESAG).
ACTION: Councillor Scaife
- 11.6 Councillor Scaife will monitor the costs, and will let the Council know if it looks as if the costs are likely to be significantly different from budget.
ACTION: Councillor Scaife

12. Calor Village of the Year competition

- 12.1 The judges for the Calor Village of the Year competition will be visiting Sadberge from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Friday 18-Apr-2008.
We have two hours to show the judges what we do as a community and why Sadberge deserves to win the National Village of the Year award.
- 12.2 All Sadberge residents are welcome to attend the judging session. The Sadberge Village Hall Association will see whether it is possible to put on a coffee morning or a brunch on that morning.
- 12.3 An invitation to attend the judging session will be included in the flyer that is going out to all Sadberge homes. (See item 7.5 above.)
ACTION: A Mackenzie

12.4 The format of the session has still to be finalised, but it is suggested that it includes:-

- A presentation by a seven-year-old local resident about the new barbecue patio.
- A visit to the Pre-School Group.
- Exhibitions on the campaign to save the bus service, the opposition to the proposed training centre at Beacon Hill, etc.
- A presentation on the Sadberge Parish Plan.
- A walk around the village.

12.5 There will be a planning meeting in Sadberge Village Hall at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 25-Mar-2008.

Councillor Brown and Councillor Brian Jones left the meeting.

13. Parish Plan

13.1 Work on implementing the Parish Plan has been delayed by the need to focus attention on the campaign to preserve a bus service for Sadberge.

13.2 The Clerk presented a final statement of the costs of producing the Sadberge Parish Plan. See Appendix 1. It was noted that there will be on-going costs associated with the implementation of the Parish Plan.

The Council approved the final statement of costs.

14. Newsletter

14.1 It was agreed to defer the next issue of Sadberge Parish News.

14.2 A flyer will go out to all Sadberge homes within the next week or so. (See items 7.5 and 12.3 above.)

15. Planning

15.1 The Council noted the outcome of the following planning applications:-

- Planning application 07/01034/FUL was granted.
- Planning application 07/01138/FUL was granted.

15.2 The Council approved planning application 08/00090/FUL without comment.

16. Request for a grant

In response to a request from the St. Andrew's Parochial Church Council, Sadberge Parish Council decided to make a donation of £350 towards the cost of maintaining the St. Andrew's churchyard, and approved the relevant payment.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

17. Sadberge banner

The Council decided to buy a Sadberge banner and approved the associated payment of £37.99.

18. Approval of payments

The following payments were approved:-

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|--|-----------|
| • Clerk's salary | £1,080.00 |
| • Printing for the Sadberge Parish Plan | £85.53 |
| • Room hire for the Sadberge Parish Plan | £119.90 |

19. Annual Meeting

It was agreed that the Sadberge Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of Sadberge Parish Council (which are jointly often referred to as the "Parish Council AGM") will be held on Tuesday 20th May 2008.

20. Correspondence

The Council noted the following correspondence:-

- 20.1 Letter from the County Durham and Cleveland County Training Partnership about the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) for Town and Parish Council Clerks.
- 20.2 The February edition of the External Funding Guide from Darlington Borough Council.
- 20.3 Letter from Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council about consultation on planning the future of Villages in Stockton on Tees Borough.
- 20.4 Letter from the Government Office for the North East inviting comments on further proposed changes to the draft North East Regional Spatial Strategy.
- 20.5 Invitation to a workshop on "Implementing a Local Involvement Network (LINK) for Darlington" on the morning of Friday 20-Mar-2008.
- 20.6 An invitation to comment on the Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan: Preferred Options document.
- 20.7 A notice of the Darlington Association of Parish Councils meeting to be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday 6-Mar-2008.

21. Next meeting

The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held in Sadberge Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 15th April 2008.

Alastair Mackenzie
Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 4th MARCH 2008

I hereby certify that these minutes are a true record of the meeting.

Signed: Councillor M Scaife _____ Date _____

Appendix 1 – Sadberge Parish Plan Costs

**SADBERGE PARISH PLAN
EXPENDITURE VERSUS BUDGET
Final Figures**

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Cash expenses			
Printing	£586.89	£649.36	-£62.47
Consultancy	£1,000.00	£1,375.00	-£375.00
Traffic survey	£735.00	£337.50	£397.50
Meeting room hire	£225.00	£180.00	£45.00
Equipment	£58.74	£100.00	-£41.26
Miscellaneous	£331.56	£411.40	-£79.84
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Total for cash	£2,937.19	£3,053.26	-£116.07
"In kind" expenses			
Administration	£290.63	£187.50	
Volunteer time	£1,723.44	£756.25	
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Total for "in kind"	£2,014.06	£943.75	£1,070.31
OVERALL TOTAL	£4,951.25	£3,997.01	£954.24

Notes

- (1) These final figures include the costs incurred up to the end of 2007.
- (2) Further costs will be incurred during the implementation of the Parish Plan during 2008 and beyond.