

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held at 8 p.m. on Tuesday 20th May 2008 in Sadberge Village Hall

Present: Councillor Scaife [Chair]
Councillors Best, Glew and Vickers

In attendance: Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

- 1.1 Councillor Scaife was elected as Chair of the Council for the coming year.
- 1.2 Councillor Best was elected as Vice-Chair of the Council for the coming year.
- 1.3 Councillors Scaife and Best signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office.

2. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Brown, Heywood and Schott. Councillor Brian Jones also sent his apologies.

3. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Councillor Vickers declared an interest in item 15 – Approval of payments.

4. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 15th April 2008 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

5. Matters arising

- 5.1 Planning permission has been given for the development of a poultry farm (with some cattle and pigs) at Cherry Tree Farm, near Beacon Hill.
- 5.2 Mr. Walker-Coates has agreed to move off the land north of Lea Close by 26-Jun-2008.
It is understood that the new driveway and fencing have been installed by the new owner, who intends to keep ponies and horses on the land.
Darlington Borough Council is making contingency plans for enforcement if Mr. Walker-Coates does not leave by the agreed date.
- 5.3 The Clerk visited Mr. Dennis Abdale, who built the bungalows in Abbey Road and Dale Road, to find out about the restrictive covenant in the deeds to 10 Dale Road.
When Mr. Abdale built the bungalows he took that the view that he was selling a little estate with a particular character rather than just "plots of land with buildings on". He therefore placed covenants on the title deeds to prevent anyone from altering the scheme in any significant way. As far as he is concerned, people bought the bungalows because they liked their character and the character of the neighbourhood, and he regards the covenants as providing very important protection for those people.
Mr. Abdale's very definite view is that the modifications proposed in planning application 08/00287/FUL would spoil the character of the bungalow and the neighbourhood. He is adamant that the covenant must be adhered to.
- 5.4 Having received the majority of its title deeds back from the Land Registry, Darlington Borough Council has said that it has no interest in the land between 1 Hillside Terrace and Stockton Road.
- 5.5 The Clerk has written to the National Animal Sanctuary Support League (NASSL) thanking them for their efforts to trap and neuter the feral cats in the Dale Road area. The Clerk will contact NASSL to find out how the work is progressing. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

- 5.6 The plaque on the village green has gone off to be refurbished. The person doing the refurbishment would like a photograph showing the colours on the plaque when it was new.
- 5.7 Reconstruction of the road leading to Well House started on Tuesday 20-May-2008.
A local resident has asked why the reconstruction does not include the last 10 metres of publicly-owned road. Having visited the site, Dave McGuckin explained that Darlington Borough Council has not adopted that particular section of road.
- 5.8 The Clerk has contacted Dave Winstanley again about the possibility of turning some of the grassed area in The Orchard into additional parking spaces, but has not yet received a reply. It appears that Dave Winstanley is very busy at the moment.
- 5.9 The Clerk has still to write to Councillor Brian Jones about how Sadberge would use grant funding from Darlington Borough Council.
ACTION: A Mackenzie

6. Proposed wind farms and East and West Newbiggin

- 6.1 The Action Group against the proposed wind farms had asked Sadberge Parish Council to make arrangements to enable statements to be made in Sadberge Parish Council's name without the need to wait for approval at a Council meeting.
The Council decided to set up a Sub-Committee to make and approve statements about the proposed wind farms on behalf of the Council. The members of the Wind Farms Sub-Committee are Councillors Best, Scaife and Schott.
- 6.2 The Action Group had also asked Sadberge Parish Council to be one of the signatories to a letter to the wind farm developers.
It was agreed that the Council would be a signatory to the letter provided that three changes were made to the wording. The Clerk will communicate this decision to the Action Group.
ACTION: A Mackenzie

7. Bus service for Sadberge

- 7.1 After discussions with Councillor Brian Jones and Simon Houldsworth (Darlington Borough Council's Transport Policy Manager), the Clerk organised two consultation meetings to discuss the design of the new bus service for Sadberge and the other villages to the north-east of Darlington.
- 7.2 The Clerk reported on the two consultation meetings.
- At the first meeting, held on Wednesday 30-Apr-2008, representatives of the relevant Parish Councils and Parish Meetings discussed three timetable options presented by Simon Houldsworth. (See below for brief descriptions of Options 1 and 2.)
 - The representatives of the other villages agreed that Option 2 could be considered, even though this would mean that there would be a slight reduction in the number of services to Bishopton, Stillington, etc. on two days per week.
 - Those present also agreed that Option 3 was not worth considering, as the irregular nature of the timetable meant that it would be difficult for people to know when they could catch a bus.
 - At the second meeting, held on Wednesday 7-May-2008, Simon Houldsworth presented two timetable options to Sadberge residents.
 - In Option 1 a single bus operates two services to a regular timetable. One service goes in to Darlington along Haughton Road while the other service goes via Middleton St. George and then along Yarm Road.
 - Option 2 is the same as Option 1, except that twice a week the bus breaks off from its regular timetable to do a "surgery shuttle service" between Sadberge, the Whinfield Surgery and the Felix House surgery for either 1¼ hours or two hours.
 - Votes taken at the meeting on 7-May-2008 indicate that, at present, Option 1 is preferred. However, if the minor ailments clinic in Sadberge Village Hall was stopped then Option 2 would be better.

- 7.3 It was decided to write to the Assistant Chief Executive of Darlington Borough Council to thank the Borough Council for consulting Sadberge residents about the timetable for the subsidised bus service.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

8. Sadberge Post Office

- 8.1 As agreed at the last meeting, the Council organised a meeting of all interested parties to discuss the possibility of opening a post office counter in Sadberge Village Hall.

The meeting was held on Monday 12-May-2008, and included representatives of the Post Office Ltd., Sadberge Village Hall Association, Sadberge Parish Council and two people who have expressed an interest in running a post office in Sadberge.

At the meeting on 12-May-2008, it was agreed that the best option would be to have a part-time post office counter operating in the Dance Studio in the village hall. The initial set-up costs would probably need to be funded by the person running the post office, although the Village Hall Association would be prepared to install the fixtures and fittings if it could get a grant to cover the costs. The Post Office Ltd. might be prepared to reduce or waive the goodwill payment.

- 8.2 It was reported that investigation of the possibility of opening a post office counter in the village hall are continuing, but the economics are looking difficult.

9. Calor Village of the Year competition

- 9.1 Sadberge is still in the running for the Calor National Village of the Year competition.

- 9.2 There will be another judges' visit on the morning of Monday 7-Jul-2008.

It was agreed that the programme for this judges' visit should be similar to the programme for the previous judges' visit on 18-Apr-2008.

10. Village Festival on Saturday 21st June 2008

- 10.1 Arrangements for the festival are proceeding.

- 10.2 The Mayor of Darlington will open the festival.

- 10.3 The Buck Inn Racing Club and the Three Tuns are each donating £500 towards the festival costs.

- 10.4 Anyone willing to volunteer to help during the day of the festival is asked to come to a meeting in Sadberge Village Hall at 7 p.m. on Monday 9-Jun-2008.

11. Parish Plan

- 11.1 A Steering Group meeting was held on Thursday 15-May-2008.

- 11.2 Working groups are being set up to take action on the following issues:-

- Village Gardens
- Climate Change
- Video Record of Sadberge

- 11.3 A Parish Plan Update flyer will be issued within the next few days.

12. Newsletter

- 12.1 The Clerk presented an outline draft of the next issue of Sadberge Parish News. It was agreed to defer this issue until after the Council's meeting in June.

- 12.2 The Clerk will prepare a fuller draft for the next meeting. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

13. Sadberge Parish Meeting and Sadberge Parish Council Annual Meeting

- 13.1 The Council noted the outcomes of the following planning applications:-

- Granted 08/00090/FUL Erection of a rear conservatory extension at 14 Goodwood Close.
- Granted 08/00129/FUL Erection of a single storey rear extension at 4 West Row.

- Granted 08/00179/FUL Erection of buildings for agricultural purposes and siting of a temporary dwelling, together with landscaping and planting, at Cherry Tree Farm, Beacon Hill.

13.2 The Council approved planning application 08/00304/FUL without comment.

13.3 The Council approved planning application 08/00381/FUL without comment.

14. Sadberge Parish Council accounts for the year ending 31-Mar-2008

14.1 The Responsible Financial Officer presented the draft accounts for the year ending 31-Mar-2008.

14.2 Discussion of the remit for the internal audit of the accounts was deferred until the next meeting.

15. Approval of payments

The following payments were approved:-

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|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Gift for Arthur & Meg Sanders | £100.00 |
| • Flowers for Arthur & Meg Sanders | £27.95 ⁽¹⁾ |
| • Market licence for the Village Festival | £80.00 |
| • Flowers for the new village garden near Pleasant View | £11.97 |

⁽¹⁾ Having declared an interest, Councillor Vickers did not participate in the approval of this payment.

16. Correspondence

The Council noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter from Arthur & Meg Sanders, thanking the Council for its contribution towards the party and gift.
- Letter from Alan & Janice Burrows, expressing their appreciation for the excellent treatment they received from Reiver Homes Ltd. when they were presented with the prize for suggesting the name St. Andrew's Park.
- Invitation to an On-Shore Wind Energy Awareness Forum on Friday 16-May-2008. (The Clerk attended this forum.)

17. Next meeting

The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will held in Sadberge Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on the evening of Tuesday 3rd June 2008.

Alastair Mackenzie
Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 20th MAY 2008

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

Signed: Councillor M Scaife _____ Date _____