

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday 8th July 2008, starting with an inspection tour of Parish Council land and property and then in Sadberge Village Hall

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

In attendance: Councillor Brian Jones Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

1. Inspection tour of Sadberge Parish Council land and property

- 1.1 The inspection was carried out by Councillors Scaife, Best, Brown, Glew, Heywood, Schott and Vickers, accompanied by the Clerk.
- 1.2 Phil Haynes, Senior Arboricultural Officer in Darlington Borough Council, was also present.
- 1.3 See the checklist attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes and items 11 and 15 of these minutes.
- 1.4 The Clerk will write to Phil Haynes to thank him for participating in the inspection tour.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

2. Apologies

There were no apologies. All the Parish Councillors were present.

3. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 3rd June 2008 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

5. Matters arising

- 5.1 Mr. Abdale, the original builder of the bungalows in Abbey Road and Dale Road, has written to the new owner of 10 Dale Road refusing permission for the proposed reconstruction.
- 5.2 Members of the National Animal Sanctuary Support League (NASSL) and the Cat Orphanage in Middlesbrough have been helping to deal with the problem of feral cats in Sadberge.
 - NASSL representatives have retrieved 8 kittens from Dale Road and another 8 kittens from Laurel Terrace. The kittens are young enough to be tamed, and NASSL is trying to find homes for them. NASSL had previously managed to trap three adult cats and get them neutered.
 - People from the Cat Orphanage have trapped 8 adult cats and 3 kittens. The adult cats have been neutered and returned to Sadberge. The kittens may be too old to be tamed.
- 5.3 There was nothing new to report about the question of additional parking in The Orchard.
- 5.4 The Wind Farm Action Group has produced "No to wind farms" signs, which they would like to be placed around the proposed site of the East Newbiggin Wind Farm.

The Clerk will contact Chris Shepherd and David Yole to ask if they are willing to have the signs put up in suitable places on their land.

ACTION: A Mackenzie
- 5.5 Issue #2 of Sadberge Parish News was distributed as planned.

6. Caravan on agricultural land north of Lea Close

- 6.1 The static caravan and the dog kennels have been removed from the land north of Lea Close. However, it appears that Mr. Walker-Coates intends to live on the land in a mobile home. Councillor Brian Jones is pursuing this matter with the relevant Borough Council officers.

- 6.2 The Clerk will contact the Enforcement Officer in Darlington Borough Council to ask the Borough Council to take appropriate action to deal with the situation. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

7. Sadberge Post Office

- 7.1 The person who was interested in opening a post office counter in Sadberge Village Hall is not pursuing the matter any further at present because of the level of the rent. He is also concerned about the practicalities of obtaining and installing the counter itself.
- 7.2 The Sadberge Village Hall Association Management Committee will discuss this subject at their meeting on 9th July 2008.

8. Calor Village of the Year competition

- 8.1 Sadberge's judging visit for the National Village of the Year competition took place on Monday 7th July 2008.
- 8.2 The visit itself seemed to go well. The judges were prompt and courteous, and the village hall was busy and active during the visit.
- 8.3 Two television crews were present. One was from Tyne Tees, and the other was making a film about the judging process for Calor.
- 8.4 The result of the Calor England Village of the Year competition will be announced at a presentation ceremony in London on Tuesday 2nd December 2008.
- 8.5 The Parish Council thanked all the villagers who attended the judging visit on 7th July.
- 8.6 Sadberge's entry for the 2008 Calor Tees Valley Village of the Year competition has been submitted.

9. Village Festival on Saturday 21st June 2008

- 9.1 There was persistent rain during the Midsummer Morris Festival on 21st June 2008, and the parade from the village hall to the village green had to be cancelled.
- 9.2 Despite the weather, the festival was well attended.
- 9.3 There were some concerns about everything ending up in the village hall, which meant that few people visited the other venues that were participating in the festival.
- 9.4 A gazebo was purchased before the event to provide cover for some stalls in case of rain. This turned out to be a very good idea. In the light of the fact that gazebos are currently on sale at a reduced price, it was agreed to buy a second gazebo for use at future events.
- 9.5 The following payments were approved:-
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|-------------------------------------|---------|
| • Craft workshops | £225.00 |
| • Traffic management for the parade | £282.00 |
| • First aid by St John Ambulance | £91.65 |
| • First gazebo | £93.99 |
| • Second gazebo | £93.99 |
- 9.6 There is a need for a storage facility for the dance floor for the village green. One possibility would be to obtain a storage container to be shared by Sadberge Parish Council and Middleton St. George Parish Council. The Clerk will contact Middleton St. George Parish Council about this.
ACTION: A Mackenzie

10. "Talking Together" event in Sadberge on 16th July 2008

- 10.1 The "Talking Together" event that was scheduled for Wednesday 16-Jul-2008 has been postponed due to industrial action;.

11. Tree planting by Riever Homes

- 11.1 Darlington Borough Council has agreed that Riever Homes can remove a number of trees along the northern boundary of St. Andrew's Park. As a compensatory measure, Riever Homes has made a commitment to carry out planting throughout Sadberge to a maximum value of £5,000.
- 11.2 Having listened to the Parish Councillors' views during the inspection tour (see item 1 above), Phil Haynes is going to draw up a proposed planting scheme for approval by Sadberge Parish Council.
- 11.3 The planting scheme will take into account a request from local residents that the sycamore trees on the section of village green near Tithe House should be removed and replaced with something more suitable.

12. Flower tubs

- 12.1 A local resident has offered to buy a number of flower tubs to be placed on the village green.
- 12.2 The Clerk will contact the local resident to let her know that the Council likes the idea and to ask her to let the Council know where the flower tubs have been put.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

13. Maintenance of the railings in Sadberge

- 13.1 It was agreed to ask Darlington Borough Council to repair and pain the railings in the following locations:

- On the north side of Darlington Road near Berry Court.
- On the north side of Church Lane (behind St. Andrew's Church).
- On the west side of Middleton Road near Richmond Cottages.

The railings should be painted silver.

The Clerk will contact the Borough Council's Street Scene team.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

14. Community compost facility

A local resident has suggested the creation of a community compost facility.

The Clerk will obtain further information about the practicalities of creating and operating such a facility.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

15. Parish Council land and property

- 15.1 The Clerk will ask Darlington Borough Council for a quote for carrying out the tree pruning work identified during the inspection tour. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 15.2 The Clerk will ask Darlington Borough Council for a quote for removing the old cherry tree stumps from the section of village green in front of Mayfield House. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 15.3 The Clerk will remove the suckers from the bottoms of trees in several places on the village green. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 15.4 Councillor Schott will modify the guard on the tree on the north side of Darlington Road near the village hall. **ACTION:** Councillor Schott
- 15.5 The Clerk will seek advice on treating the benches. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

16. Parish Plan

- 16.1 It was suggested that, for the present, work on the village gardens should proceed on an "ad hoc" basis. It would, however, be useful to have a budget for the work. Alastair Mackenzie will raise this with the Parish Plan Steering Group. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 16.2 Councillor Scaife will ask Brigid Press to come along and give advice on the village gardens. **ACTION:** Councillor Scaife
- 16.3 The Sadberge Energy Saving Project is going well.
- The project was launched at the Village Festival on Saturday 21-Jun-2008.

- An on-line version of the Sadberge Home Energy Check questionnaire is available on the Sadberge web site, and paper copies have been distributed to Sadberge households.
- Following a successful application for a grant from the O₂ "It's Your Community" fund, ten Eco-eye electricity monitors have been purchased and are now being lent out to Sadberge residents.
- There are plans to set up "bulk purchase" schemes to enable Sadberge residents to get discounts on double glazing and modern, energy-efficient central heating boilers.

The Council thanked the Climate Change Working Group for its efforts.

17. Risk assessment and risk management

The reviews of the Council's risk assessment and the Council's risk management procedures were deferred until the next meeting.

18. Accounts, Internal Audit and Annual Return

18.1 The Council reviewed the internal audit report for the year ended 31-Mar-2008.

In line with the recommendation from the Internal Auditor, the Clerk will prepare an Asset and Investment Register for approval by the Council at a future meeting.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

18.2 The Council approved the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2008.

18.3 The Council approved the Statement of Accounts in Section 1 of the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2008.

18.4 The Council approved "Yes" answers to statements 1 - 8 and a "N/A" answer to statement 9 of the Annual Governance Statement in Section 2 the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2007.

18.5 The Council reviewed the forecast of expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2009 and agreed that the financial position is satisfactory.

19. Request for Councillors' names and addresses

19.1 The Clerk has received an email request for the Parish Councillors' names and addresses. He has replied asking for further information about the reason for the request.

19.2 The Council approved the way that the Clerk is dealing with the request.

20. Darlington Association of Parish Councils and Parish Meetings

20.1 Cabinet member Jenny Chapman attended the DAPC meeting on 17-Jun-2008, along with Ada Burns (Chief Executive of Darlington Borough Council) and Councillor Steve Harker.

The discussion was amicable, although it appears unlikely that the Cabinet will agree to appoint a Cabinet member to represent the rural areas.

20.2 The Chair of the DAPC, Councillor Brian Jones, is organising a sub-group to discuss the Borough Council's grants to Parish Councils. There will be a meeting of this sub-group at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 15-Jul-2008. As Councillor Scaife will be unavailable on that day, Councillor Best will attend the meeting.

ACTION: Councillor Best

20.3 Sadberge representatives at the DAPC meeting raised two other issues:-

- The Clerk asked Darlington Borough Council to consult with the Parish Council at an early stage when the Borough Council is planning to hold a "Talking Together" event in Sadberge.
- Councillor Scaife outlined the difficulties in dealing with the Public Events Safety Advisory Group (PESAG) now that the liaison role has been discontinued.

21. Approval of payments

The following payment was approved:-

- Electricity monitors for the Sadberge Energy Saving Project £275.84

22. Planning

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

- Granted 08/00105/FUL Erection of a lean-to walkway to front of indoor arena, lighting to the outdoor arena, erection of a stable/barn and horse exerciser at Middleton Riding Centre, Sadberge Road, Middleton St. George.
- Withdrawn 08/00381/FUL Single storey extensions to the front and side at New House, Church Lane.

23. Correspondence

The Council noted the following correspondence:-

- 23.1 Letter from the Durham County Council Welfare Rights Team asking for help with publicising a campaign to boost the claiming of benefits among pensioners.
- 23.2 Letter from Darlington Borough Council asking for help with publicising a "High Quality Design in Darlington" workshop being held in Sadberge Village Hall on 2-Jul-2008.
- 23.3 Letter from Mencap requesting a donation.
- 23.4 Letter from Stillington & Whitton Parish Council about the consultation about the bus service for the villages to the north-east of Darlington.

24. Next meeting

The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held in Sadberge Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 12th August 2008.

Alastair Mackenzie
Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8th JULY 2008

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

Signed: Councillor M Scaife _____ Date _____