

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday 30th July 2008 in Sadberge Village Hall

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

In attendance: Councillor Brian Jones Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

1. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Brown and Glew.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Proposed wind farms near Sadberge

Rob Williams and Emily Hooson of Banks Developments were present for this item.

- 3.1 Banks Developments has submitted a scoping report for a proposed wind farm of up to ten turbines at Moor House.

A planning application for an anemometer on a 60m mast will be submitted in 2 - 3 weeks' time.

If they decide to proceed with the project, Banks will submit a planning application in about March 2009, and they will hold further public exhibitions at that time.

- 3.2 The Clerk reported that Pure Renewable Energy did not wish to give a specific timetable for the submission of a planning application for the East and West Newbiggin wind farms.

- 3.3 E.ON has announced that it is looking at the suitability of developing a new wind farm a few miles north of Great Stainton near the A1. There will be public exhibitions about this proposal in Sedgefield on Tuesday 12-Aug-2008 and in Stillington on Wednesday 13-Aug-2008.

- 3.4 The Council agreed that:-

- (a) it is time to initiate discussions to establish the views of Sadberge residents on the subject of wind farms within sight of Sadberge, and
- (b) the discussions should be arranged within the Parish Plan framework.

- 3.5 The Parish Plan Steering Group will be asked to organise the discussions. The Council suggests that:-

- The discussion should be about the general principles of wind farms within sight of Sadberge. Individual proposals should be used to illustrate the issues, but the discussion should not be about the specific proposals.
- The discussion process should include a Parish Plan Open Meeting followed up by a questionnaire distributed to all Sadberge homes.
- A suitable time for the Open Meeting would be the week commencing 15-Sep-2008.
- Participants in the Open Meeting should include the relevant Planning Officer from Darlington Borough Council, representatives of wind farm developers and representatives of the Wind Farm Action Group that is currently campaigning against the existing wind farm proposals.
- The Open Meeting will need to be well structured to ensure that it meets the needs of Sadberge residents. In particular, no vocal minority should be allowed to dominate the debate.

4. Planning

- 4.1 The Council considered planning application 08/00591/FUL, which is for the construction of a vehicular pavement crossing at 7 Church View.

The following points were made during the discussion:-

- The property is within the Sadberge conservation area.
- There is a shortage of parking spaces in the centre of the village.
- 7 Church View has a garage at the rear, and it would be possible to put additional parking space at the back of the property.
- Access to the back of the property is difficult because the lane is narrow.
- It is possible to park on the south side of Darlington Road opposite the property.

After discussion, the Council decided to object to this planning application because the proposed development would be detrimental to the character of the village.

5. New bus timetable and fares

5.1 Sadberge residents have commented that the fares for the new #17 and #18 bus services are substantially higher than the previous fares.

5.2 The Clerk presented a table of fares provided by Gill Hutchinson, Transport Policy Officer in Darlington Borough Council.

An adult single fare from Sadberge to Darlington is now £2.80 on the #17 and £3.00 on the #18. However, an adult day ticket covering travel on all Arriva buses within the Borough of Darlington costs £4.00.

5.3 Local residents present at the meeting made the following comments:-

- The bus drivers are unable to keep to the new timetable, and buses often run very late.
- Bus drivers are refusing to pick up passengers outside Marks & Spencer, although Gill Hutchinson has said that the bus should pick up passengers at that stop.
- One bus driver did not know how to get from Sadberge to Bishopton, and had to get directions from a passenger.
- The loop around Middleton St. George is wasting time. Why can the bus not go straight in and out?

5.4 The Clerk will contact Gill Hutchinson to make her aware of these concerns, and will invite Gill Hutchinson and a representative from Arriva to attend the Council's next meeting (on Tuesday 12th August 2008).

ACTION: A Mackenzie

6. Insurance

6.1 The Council approved the renewal of its insurance via the Group Insurance Policy organised by Darlington Borough Council.

6.2 The following payments were approved:-

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|---|---------|
| • Annual insurance premium | £165.38 |
| • Insurance for the Midsummer Morris Festival | £94.50 |

7. "Talking Together" event in Sadberge on 6th August 2008

7.1 The Council noted that Darlington Borough Council will be holding a "Talking Together" consultation event in Sadberge Village Hall from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesday 6th August 2008.

7.2 The Council recommended that Sadberge residents should attend this event, which gives local people an opportunity to discuss issues with Darlington Borough Councillors, Borough Council officers and representatives of other organisations such as the Police.

8. Parish Plan

8.1 The Climate Change Working Group is setting up "bulk purchase schemes" to enable Sadberge residents to obtain discounts on (a) double glazing and (b) central heating boilers and heating controls.

- 8.2 The Climate Change Working Group is arranging to obtain free low energy light bulbs from EDF Energy for distribution to Sadberge households with at least one resident aged over 70. The free light bulbs can also be distributed to households in which at least one resident is in receipt of specified benefits.
- 8.3 The Climate Change Working Group is entering the Sadberge Energy Saving Project into the National Energy Efficiency Awards.
- 8.4 The Council noted the above activities and thanked the Working Group for its efforts.

9. 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 30th JULY 2008

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

Signed: Councillor M Scaife _____ Date _____