

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 9th September 2008 in Sadberge Village Hall

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

In attendance: Councillor Brian Jones Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

1. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Heywood and Schott.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Councillor Scaife declared an interest in Item 10, Midsummer Morris Festival.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

3.1 The minutes of the meeting on 12th September 2008 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

3.2 The Council accepted Councillor Brown's apologies for the meeting on 12th August 2008.

4. Matters arising

4.1 There was no news about the question of providing additional parking in The Orchard.

4.2 The Clerk had obtained a number of "No wind farms" signs, but posts are needed before they can be put up.

Chris Shepherd has said that he does not want signs to be put up in his fields, but that he is happy for signs to be put on the road verges beside his fields.

The Clerk will give one sign to Councillor Schott, and one to Councillor Brown.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

4.3 There was no further information about the storage facility for the Village Festival dance floor.

4.4 The Clerk has spoken to Marie Kenny about the flower tubs for the village green.

4.5 Carol Carter, Street Scene Leader in Darlington Borough Council, is progressing the request to repair and paint the railings in three locations in Sadberge.

4.6 The Clerk has still to obtain further information about the practicalities of setting up a community compost facility.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

4.7 There was no news about setting up a post office facility for Sadberge.

4.8 Alison Evans, Collections Manager in the Royal Mail, had asked for the Council's view on the appropriate position for one of the two post boxes in Sadberge. It was agreed that the post box should be put on the south side of Church View at the north-east corner of the St. Andrew's churchyard. The Clerk will communicate this to Alison Evans.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

4.9 The residents of Beacon Grange Farm now lease the land containing the allotments. They are not allowed to sub-let the allotments, but they are happy for Sadberge residents to use them.

5. Mobile home on agricultural land north of Lea Close

5.1 The Clerk had written to Dave Coates, Principal Planning Officer in Darlington Borough Council, but had not yet received a response.

6. Traffic in Sadberge

6.1 There had been no communication from Darlington Borough Council about the Parish Council's request for a 7.5 te weight restriction covering the whole of Sadberge Village.

- 6.2 Michael Straugheir, Durham Constabulary's Traffic Management Officer for the area including Sadberge, is currently off sick. It is unlikely that there will be any progress on dealing with traffic speeds in Sadberge – particularly on Hill House Lane – until Michael Straugheir returns to work.
- 6.3 The Clerk reported that there are two villages on the A1079 south-west of York that have 40 mph buffer zones where there are no buildings beside the road.

7. Calor Tees Valley Village of the Year presentation evening

- 7.1 Councillor Scaife plus eight guests have been invited to attend the presentation on the evening of Wednesday 1-Oct-2008. Sadberge will be receiving a special Eco Award and a presentation recognising the village's success in the Calor Northern England Village of the Year competition.
- 7.2 It was agreed that the following people will be invited to attend the presentation:-
- Climate Change Steering Group members – Alastair Mackenzie, Joan Vickers and Rich Hurst.
 - Councillors Schott and Vickers.
 - Parish Plan Steering Group members.
- 7.3 It may also be appropriate to invite the children who took part in the Calor Village of the Year judging visits.

8. Parish Plan

- 8.1 Darlington Borough Council has removed the bushes from opposite the Buck Inn, so work can begin on the second village garden.
- 8.2 Millie Scaife has still to talk to Bridgid Press about visiting Sadberge to discuss the village gardens.
- 8.3 On Wednesday 3-Sep-2008 there was a Sadberge Energy Saving Project presentation evening attended by a representative of the O₂ "It's Your Community" fund. There was also an opportunity for Sadberge residents and visitors – including Darlington Borough Council Cabinet member Nick Wallis and parish councillors from other villages – to find out about the Sadberge Energy Saving Project.
- The Council thanked Alastair Mackenzie for organising the presentation evening.
- 8.4 The Council approved the following payment:-
- Sadberge Energy Saving Project expenses £124.73

9. Open Meeting on Wind Farms near Sadberge

- 9.1 The Open Meeting on Wind Farms near Sadberge will be held on Thursday 18-Sep-2008.
- 9.2 Representatives of Darlington Borough Council's Planning Department will attend as observers.
- 9.3 It was agreed that the agenda will be as follows:-
- Introduction and welcome by Millie Saife
 - Presentation by Pure Renewable Energy
 - Presentation by the Campaign to Protect Rural England
 - Presentation by the Seven Parishes Against Local Wind Farms action group
 - Presentation by Banks Developments
 - Questions for clarification
 - Break for refreshments
 - General discussions
 - Conclusions
- 9.4 It was agreed that:-
- It would be a good idea for the Parish Plan Steering Group to issue a Background Document giving information about wind farms and the issues associated with them, provided that the document was written in a factual and unbiased way.

- During the Open Meeting it may be appropriate to use a show of hands to gauge whether those present are opposed to having wind farms near Sadberge or are willing to accept wind farms near Sadberge subject to suitable conditions.
- Following the Open Meeting, it will probably be appropriate to use a questionnaire – distributed to all Sadberge households – to enable local residents to give their views on the prospect of wind farms near Sadberge.

The following item was taken out of sequence.

16. Darlington Association of Parish Councils and Parish Meetings

- 16.1 Councillor Brian Jones has had a meeting with Ada Burns and Councillors Jenny Chapman and Steve Harker to discuss Darlington Borough Council's grants to parish councils. The grants will be kept for the short term, but there appears to be a lack of understanding of parish councils' activities and wishes.

Councillor Brian Jones has an action to devise a process for allocating grants in the future. This will involve a formula that links the grants to particular needs and a mechanism for demonstrating that the money is actually producing the projected benefits.

- 16.2 The next meeting of the Darlington Association of Parish Councils and Parish Meetings will take place on the evening of Tuesday 23-Sep-2008.

It was agreed to request that the subject of wind farms be put on the agenda for the DAPC meeting.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

Councillor Brian Jones left the meeting.

10. Midsummer Morris festival

- 10.1 The accounts for the 2008 Midsummer Morris festival are nearly complete, but one invoice has still to be received.

- 10.2 The Parish Council acknowledged the receipt of £634.00 of Festival income from Councillor Scaife and approved the following payment:-

- Midsummer Morris Festival expenses £473.95

11. Feral cats

- 11.1 The trap provided by the Cat Orphanage is still in use. Fewer cats are now being caught, so the trap may have to be returned soon.

- 11.2 The Council discussed a request for a donation to the National Animal Sanctuary Support League (NASSL).

It was agreed that the next Parish Council newsletter or flyer will include a request for Sadberge residents to make donations to NASSL and the Cat Orphanage. Arrangements will be made to receive donations in the Village Hall.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

12. Grass cutting

- 12.1 The most recent cut left the village green looking untidy. However, this was a result of unusually fast growth, and the situation in Sadberge was no worse than in other places.

- 12.2 It was agreed that the Clerk will write to the Street Scene Leader to express the Council's concern about the way that weedkiller has been applied to grass verges and around trees on the village green. The weedkiller is being applied over too large an area, and the Council is particularly concerned that the weedkiller applied round the bases of young trees may be damaging the trees.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

13. Tree planting by Riever Homes

- 13.1 The Council discussed Phil Haynes' proposed planting scheme to use the £5,000 provided by Riever Homes.

The Clerk will contact the relevant Planning Officer to check that all of the items in the planting scheme fall within the scope of the Riever Homes funding.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

The Clerk will check the size of the monkey puzzle tree.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

13.2 The Council approved the proposed planting scheme.

Provided that all of the items in the scheme fall within the scope of the Riever Homes funding, the Clerk will ask Phill Haynes to go ahead and implement the scheme.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

14. Parish Council land and property

14.1 The tree pruning and stump grinding works are included in the planting scheme discussed under item 13 above.

14.2 The guard on the tree on the north side of Darlington Road near the village hall has still to be modified.

ACTION: Councillor Schott

14.3 The advice on treating the benches is as follows:-

- Wash with sugar soap or equivalent.
- Apply an exterior grade wood stain. The recommendation is to use either satin or gloss Rosewood stain.

The Clerk will ask the person who gave the advice if he would be willing to quote for doing the work.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

15. External audit

There has been no communication from the external auditor.

Item 16 was taken earlier in the meeting.

17. Proposed diversion of Public Footpath No. 10

It was agreed that the Council has no objection to the proposed diversion of Public Footpath No. 10, as described in the letter from Yvonne Ramage dated 27th August 2008.

18. Planning

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

- Granted 08/00304/FUL Erection of a palisade fence, creation of a vehicle paring area and landscaping at the Ivanhoe Service Station.
- Granted 08/00591/FUL Construction of a vehicular pavement crossing and car parking area at the front of 7 Church View.

The Clerk will check whether planning application 08/00304/FUL came to the Parish Council for comment.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

18.2 The Council approved planning application 08/00668/FUL without comment.

18.3 The Council approved planning application 08/00591/FUL without comment.

18.4 The Clerk will ask the relevant Planning Officer for an update on planning application 07/00041/OUT, which is for development of the Dean & Chapter land at Morton Park.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

19. Correspondence

The Council noted the following correspondence:-

19.1 Letter from Gemma Harvey about her trip to Tanzania.

19.2 Letter about changes to the portfolios of Darlington Primary Care Trust directors.

19.3 Invitation to send representatives to a half-day conference being organised by the County Durham Primary Care Trust.

19.4 Invitation to joint Darlington Primary Care Trust's email distribution list.

19.5 Offer to provide an internal audit service.

20. Next meeting

The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held in Sadberge Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 7th October 2008.

Alastair Mackenzie
Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th SEPTEMBER 2008

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

Signed: Councillor M Scaife _____ Date _____