

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 7th October 2008 in Sadberge Village Hall

Present: Councillor Scaife [Chair]
Councillors Best and Schott

In attendance: Councillor Brian Jones Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

1. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Brown, Glew, Heywood and Vickers.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Councillor Scaife and the Clerk declared an interest in item 6.2, arrangements for representing Sadberge at the presentation luncheon for the Calor Village of the Year award.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 9th September 2008 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

4.1 The Clerk reported that he had given "No wind turbines" signs to Councillors Schott and Brown, but that he had still to put up a sign at the entrance to the old cricket field off Hill House Lane.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

4.2 In a verbal response to the Council's letter about the application of weedkiller to grass verges and around trees, Carol Carter (Street Scene Leader in Darlington Borough Council) had said that the weedkiller would not harm trees. The Clerk will contact Carol Carter again to ask for a written response. As well as the potential damage to young trees, the Parish Council is also concerned that weedkiller is being applied to wide areas around posts, railings and trees, leaving unsightly patches of dead grass.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

4.3 There was no news about the tree planting, etc. funded by Reiver Homes.

4.4 Storage facility for the Village Festival dance floor. After discussion, it was agreed that the proposed site for the storage container is not suitable. Councillor Schott will investigate a possible alternative location at Durham Tees Valley Airport. **ACTION:** Councillor Schott
A secure storage container will cost between £900 and £1,500.

Councillor Brian Jones will check that Middleton St. George Parish Council is happy with the suggested arrangements.

ACTION: Councillor Brian Jones

4.5 There was no news about when Darlington Borough Council will repair and paint the railings in three locations in Sadberge.

4.6 There was no news about providing additional parking in The Orchard.

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

ACTION: A Mackenzie

4.8 It now looks unlikely that it will be possible to set up a post office facility in Sadberge.

5. Mobile home on agricultural land north of Lea Close

The mobile home has now gone from the land north of Lea Close.

6. Calor Village of the Year presentations

6.1 At a ceremony in Eaglescliffe on Wednesday 1-Oct-2008, Sadberge was presented with a certificate for winning the Calor Northern England Village of the Year competition and a special Eco award for the Sadberge Energy Saving Project.

It was agreed to ask the Sadberge Village Hall Association to display the award certificates in the village hall.

ACTION: Councillor Schott

The Eco award also included a tin of chocolates. It was agreed to donate this to the Village Hall Association to be used as a raffle prize at the Race Night on 18-Oct-2008.

At the presentation event on 1-Oct-2008, representatives of several other villages wished Sadberge good luck in the Calor England Village of the Year competition.

- 6.2 It was agreed that Councillor Scaife and Alastair Mackenzie will represent Sadberge at the Calor England Village of the Year award luncheon in London on Tuesday 2-Dec-2008.

It was agreed that the Council will pay for the representatives' travel and subsistence associated with the award luncheon.

The Council approved the following payment:-

- Travel expenses for the Calor Village of the Year awards luncheon £112.00

7. Wind farms near Sadberge

- 7.1 The Parish Plan Open Meeting on Wind Farms near Sadberge was held on Thursday 18-Sep-2008.

The notes of the Open Meeting will be issued very soon.

In a show of hands at the end of the Open Meeting:-

- 28 people indicated that the community of Sadberge should oppose the construction of wind farms near Sadberge.
- 8 people indicated that the community of Sadberge should accept construction of wind turbines near Sadberge provided that certain conditions are satisfied., 28 people

- 7.2 The Parish Plan Steering Group has distributed a wind farms questionnaire to Sadberge homes.

All Sadberge residents aged 18 or over are being asked to indicate whether the community of Sadberge – and Sadberge Parish Council – should oppose or accept the construction of wind farms near Sadberge.

Verification numbers are being used to check that people do not submit duplicate copies of the questionnaire response slips.

Volunteers will go round the village to collect the response slips.

- 7.3 The proposed timetable for producing the wind farms addendum to the Sadberge Parish Plan is as follows:-

- The wind farm questionnaire results should be available by the weekend of 18/19-Oct-2008.
- Once the questionnaire results are available, the Parish Plan Steering Group will meet to draft an addendum to the Sadberge Parish Plan, including an action plan to try to obtain the best outcome in line with local people's wishes and the best interests of Sadberge and the neighbouring villages. It is planned to hold a Steering Group meeting during the last week of October.
- Copies of the draft addendum to the Parish Plan will be made available on the Sadberge web site and in the village hall.
- At its December meeting, the Parish Council will consider the draft addendum and any comments from Sadberge residents. It will then either approve and adopt the addendum as part of the Sadberge Parish Plan or send it back to the Parish Plan Steering Group for further work.

- 7.4 The Council noted a letter from Banks Developments giving responses to questions that were raised at the public exhibitions on 30th and 31st July 2008.

- 7.5 The Council considered a letter from Phil Wilson MP about the proposed wind farms at East & West Newbiggin and Moor House Farm.

It was agreed to reply to Mr. Wilson (a) informing him that Sadberge Parish Council has agreed to support the Seven Parishes Against Local Wind Farms Action Group, (b) outlining what is being done to extend the Sadberge Parish Plan to cover the issue of wind farms near Sadberge and (c) inviting Mr. Wilson to meet the Parish Council and/or the Parish Plan Steering Group.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

7.6 Banks Developments has invited members of Sadberge Parish Council to visit an operational wind farm. After discussion, it was agreed that:-

- Some Sadberge Parish Councillors would like to take up the offer to visit an operational wind farm.
- Because of councillors' work commitments, it would be better to have the visit at a weekend.
- A shorter visit would be preferable, possibly omitting the lunch.
- Parish Plan Steering Group members should also be invited to go on the visit.

The Clerk will contact Banks Developments to make the arrangements.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

8. Parish Plan

8.1 Work has begun on the village garden opposite the Buck Inn.

It was agreed to allocate a budget up to £60 for large pieces of stone for this village garden.

The Buck Inn has offered to pay for some plants for the village garden.

The Council thanked Councillor Schott for his efforts on the village garden.

8.2 24 Sadberge households have asked to be referred to the insulation grants scheme and/or the bulk purchase schemes for double glazing and central heating boilers.

8.3 Eco-eye monitors have been lent out to 32 Sadberge households.

8.4 Phase 2 of the electricity monitoring work has started.

8.5 The Energy Saving Trust has offered to run a solar heating seminar in Sadberge Village Hall, possibly on Wednesday 19-Nov-2008. This idea will be considered by the Climate Change Working Group at its meeting on Wednesday 8-Oct-2008.

8.6 36 Sadberge households have received free low energy light bulbs (provided by EDF Energy). A further 30 qualifying households have been identified.

8.7 The Council approved the following payment:-

- Refreshments at the presentation evening on 3-Sep-2008 £59.66

9. Darlington Association of Parish Councils and Parish Meetings

9.1 Darlington Borough Council is carrying out a review of its supported bus services. The existing contracts for these services only last until April 2009, and the Borough Council is reviewing the need for supported services before placing longer-term contracts.

Because of problems with selling land, the Borough Council has a £1.8M shortfall in its budget.

It was agreed that Darlington Bus User Survey forms will be distributed to Sadberge households with the next newsletter. (See item 10 below.)

ACTION: A Mackenzie

9.2 Darlington Borough Council had wanted the Darlington Association of Parish Councils to propose a formula to determine the allocation of grants to the various parish councils. However, Councillor Brian Jones reported that Councillor Jenny Chapman has now agreed that the grants will continue in their current format.

The Parish Council thanked Councillor Brian Jones for his efforts on this issue.

10. Newsletter / flyer

10.1 The Clerk presented an incomplete draft of a newsletter.

It was agreed to go ahead and issue this newsletter.

The Clerk will finalise the newsletter in consultation with Councillor Scaife, and arrange for it to be distributed to Sadberge homes.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

10.2 The Clerk will ask the National of Animal Sanctuary Support League (NASSL) and the Cat Orphanage to provide collection boxes to be placed in Sadberge Village Hall.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

Councillor Brian Jones left the meeting.

11. Christmas tree

- 11.1 It was agreed to put up a Christmas tree on the village green.
 Councillor Best will order a 20' tree. **ACTION:** Councillor Best
 The Clerk will investigate options for obtaining additional lights for the tree.
ACTION: A Mackenzie
- 11.2 The aim is to put up the tree on Saturday 29-Nov-2008. **ACTION:** Councillor Best and
 Councillor Schott

12. Parish Council land and property

- 12.1 The guard on the tree on the north side of Darlington Road near the village hall has been modified.
- 12.2 Treatment of the benches will be deferred until the Spring.
 Enquiries will be made to find out if anyone would be interested in quoting for doing the work.
ACTION: All

13. External audit

There has been no communication from the external auditor.

14. Planning

- 14.1 The Clerk reported that planning application 08/00304/FUL – Erection of a palisade fence, creation of a vehicle paring area and landscaping at the Ivanhoe Service Station – was approved without comment by the Council at its meeting in May 2008.
- 14.2 Planning application 07/00041/OUT – Development of the Dean & Chapter land at Morton Park. The Clerk reported that the various parties interested in developing land along the new Eastern Transport Corridor are discussing how to share the costs of any necessary road improvements. It was agreed that development along the Eastern Transport Corridor could have a significant effect on the volume of traffic through Sadberge. The Clerk will continue to monitor the progress of planning application 07/00041/OUT. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

15. Correspondence

The Council noted the following correspondence:-

- 15.1 Letter from the County Durham and Darlington Primary Care Trusts about a consultation on the NHS constitution.
- 15.2 Letter from the CPRE's LitterFree Durham team asking for information about voluntary litter-picking groups.
- 15.3 Letter from Pure Renewable Energies about the Wind Farms Open Meeting on 18-Sep-2008.
- 15.4 Letter from the Department for Communities and Local Government about a consultation on the making and enforcement of byelaws.

16. Matters for information

- 16.1 The Clerk will investigate what happened to the £32,000 that was provided by Reiver Homes for improvements to local public transport. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 16.2 A caravan has been left near the garages at the south end of Hampass. The Clerk will send a photograph of it to Andrew Harker (Planning Officer in Darlington Borough Council) and will try to find out who owns it. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 16.3 People using the riding school facility south of Prospect House have been causing problems by parking at the east end of Church Lane.
- 16.4 Cars for sale are being parked on the pavement where Norton Crescent meets Norton Road. The Clerk will inform Darlington Borough Council. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

17. Next meeting

The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held in Sadberge Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 4th November 2008.

Alastair Mackenzie
Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7th OCTOBER 2008

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

Signed: Councillor M Scaife _____ Date _____