

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 4th November 2008 in Sadberge Village Hall

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

In attendance: Councillor Brian Jones Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

1. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Brown.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

- Councillor Schott declared an interest in item 8.2, Parish Plan payments.
- Councillor Vickers declared an interest in item 11, Sadberge playing field.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 7th October 2008 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

- 4.1 The Clerk had put up a "No wind turbines" sign at the entrance to the old cricket field off Hill House Lane. However, it has subsequently fallen over. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 4.2 There had been no response from Carol Carter to the Council's concerns about the way that weedkiller has been applied to grass verges and around the bases of trees.
- 4.3 The tree planting, etc. funded by Reiver Homes should go ahead by the end of this year.
- 4.4 It will not be possible to keep a storage container at Durham Tees Valley Airport.
A Sadberge resident has offered to store the staging in his shed. Councillor Schott will check whether this is a suitable storage facility. **ACTION:** Councillor Schott
Councillor Brian Jones will check whether it would be possible to keep a storage container at the Middleton St. George water park. **ACTION:** Councillor Brian Jones
- 4.5 The railings in three locations in Sadberge have been repaired and painted to a high standard. Darlington Borough Council workers have also cleared the path between Sadberge Village and Beacon Hill, and have tidied the edges of the paths throughout the village. The Clerk will write to Carol Carter to express the Parish Council's thanks. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 4.6 There was no news about providing additional parking in The Orchard.
- 4.7 The Parish Council newsletter went out in mid-October as agreed.
- 4.8 The £30,000 funding from Reiver Homes will probably be put towards providing a subsidised bus service in Sadberge during 2009-10. This will not be an additional enhancement to the bus service.
- 4.9 The caravan is still parked at Hampass. The Clerk will inform Neil Foreman or Andrew Harker in Darlington Borough Council. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 4.10 Visitors to the riding school field on the east side of Middleton Road have been parking near the end of Church Lane. This obstructs the view of vehicles attempting to exit from Church Lane on to Middleton Road. The riding school visitors have been asked to park further down Middleton Road.
- 4.11 Councillor Brian Jones provided information about an initiative being taken by the Borough Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Unit to deal with cars advertised for sale illegally on North Road in Darlington. The Clerk will contact the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit to check what can be done about cars being displayed for sale at the junction between Norton Road and Norton Crescent. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

5. Bus service

Darlington Borough Council is carrying out a review of its supported bus services, including the #17 and #18 services through Sadberge. Survey forms had been distributed to Sadberge households.

- Up to 31-Oct-2008, there had been 65 survey responses from Sadberge.
- An overview of the survey results will be provided at a 'Talking Together' event in the Dolphin Centre on the evening of Thursday 20th November 2008
- The decision on which contracts to put out for tender will be made at the Darlington Borough Council Cabinet meeting on 2nd December 2008.
- The decision on which contracts to award will be made at a Cabinet meeting in February 2009.
- The current intention is to seek tenders to for the #17 and #18 services.

6. Wind farms near Sadberge

6.1 The results of the Sadberge wind farms questionnaire were:-

Responses:	263 out of 610	43.1%
Accept:	59 out of 263	22.4%
Oppose:	199 out of 263	75.7%
Abstain:	5 out of 263	1.9%

6.2 The Parish Plan Steering Group has drafted a 'wind farms' addendum to the Sadberge Parish Plan and two supporting documents.

- The main strategy is to oppose all wind farms near Sadberge.
- However, Government targets and National, Regional and Local planning policies are such that opposition from local communities may not be sufficient to prevent the construction of some wind farms in the north-eastern part of the Borough of Darlington. Therefore, the addendum to the Parish Plan includes a back-up strategy that involves persuading Darlington Borough Council to adopt policies aimed at minimising the harm caused by any wind farms that do get planning permission.

6.3 The Parish Plan addendum and the two supporting documents will now be put out for consultation.

6.4 Banks Developments is arranging a visit to a wind farm under construction and an operating wind farm. The visit will take place on the morning of Saturday 29-Nov-2008.

Councillor Scaife will be unable to go on the visit. The Clerk will give her apologies.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

It was agreed that Peter Harvey should be invited to go on the visit if he is interested.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

6.5 Banks Developments has applied for planning permission to erect a 60m high wind monitoring mast near Barmpton. The Seven Parishes Action Group proposes to object to the planning application.

After discussion, it was agreed that Sadberge Parish Council does not object to the wind monitoring mast itself, but will seek assurance from Darlington Borough Council that any permission for the wind monitoring mast will not make it more likely that permission will subsequently be given for construction of wind turbines.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

6.6 It was agreed that Sadberge Parish Council will arrange to print copies of the Seven Parishes Action Group newsletter and distribute them to Sadberge households.

ACTION: Councillor Scaife /
A Mackenzie

6.7 Phil Wilson MP is meeting members of the Seven Parishes Action Group in Bishopton on Friday 14-Nov-2008. As no Sadberge Parish Councillors are available to go to this meeting, it was agreed that the Clerk will attend to represent Sadberge. Councillor Scaife will make the necessary arrangements.

ACTION: Councillor Scaife /
A Mackenzie

Sadberge resident Peter Harvey will also be attending the meeting with Phil Wilson. The Clerk will give Peter a copy of the Parish Plan addendum and the two supporting documents.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

- 6.8 Phil Wilson has not replied to the letter that the Clerk sent to him on 13-Oct-2008. The Clerk will continue to try to contact Mr. Wilson.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

7. Darlington's Local Development Framework

- 7.1 Darlington Borough Council has issued the **Darlington Local Development Framework Core Strategy: Preferred Options** document for consultation.

- 7.2 It was agreed that:-

- Sadberge Parish Council supports the statements in Draft Policy CS1 that "*within the limits to development of the Borough's villages, only development that supports the vitality and viability of the village, its services or the rural economy will be supported*" and "*outside the limits to development of the villages, development will be limited to that required to meet identified rural needs*". [p16]
- Sadberge Parish Council agrees that it is important to provide "*good access for all to key social and community facilities and services such as post offices, children's play areas, sport and recreation facilities, primary health care, and education*". [p17]
- Sadberge Parish Council supports the objective of supporting initiatives "*to maintain, expand and enhance networks for public transport, walking and cycling*". [p12] In particular, it would be useful to establish safe, off-road links between neighbouring villages and between the villages and Darlington.

The Clerk will submit these comments to the Borough Council.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

- 7.3 It was agreed that Section 3.4 – Promoting Renewable Energy Generation – is vague and needs to be improved. The Council's comments on this section will be based on the draft addendum to the Sadberge Parish Plan and its two supporting documents.

The Clerk and Councillor Scaife will arrange to meet the relevant Darlington Borough Council Planning Officers to discuss this issue and to submit Sadberge Parish Council's comments.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

- 7.4 It was agreed that the Clerk will review the **Core Strategy: Preferred Options** document again and, after consultation with Councillor Scaife, will submit any additional comments in line with the Sadberge Parish Plan.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

8. Parish Plan

- 8.1 A second village garden has been established opposite the Buck Inn.

The Council thanked Councillor Schott for his work to create this attractive garden.

The Clerk will write to Steve & Emma at the Buck Inn to thank them for donating plants for the new village garden.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

- 8.2 The Council approved the following payments:-

- | | |
|---|--------|
| • Stones for the village garden opposite the Buck Inn | £90.32 |
| • Plants for the village garden opposite the Buck Inn | £35.00 |

9. Community compost facility

- 9.1 The Clerk gave a brief report on the practicalities of setting up a community compost facility for Sadberge.

- Most community composting schemes are on a larger scale than is being proposed for Sadberge.
- Any composting scheme needs either a waste management licence or an exemption certificate. The Environment Agency has indicated that it would look favourably on an application for a free "paragraph 12 exemption" for a Sadberge scheme. However, the regulations are changing in 2009, and it is possible that even small-scale composting schemes will require a full waste management licence at a cost of about £2,800.

- 9.2 It was agreed to defer further consideration of a community compost scheme for Sadberge until the licensing requirements have been clarified.

10. Speed of traffic on Hill House Lane

- 10.1 Councillor Brian Jones has discussed the Hill House Lane speed data with Michael Straugheir of Durham Constabulary. Michael was surprised at the high recorded speeds, and there is a possibility that the speed recording device was picking up vehicles outside the 30 mph zone.
- 10.2 Councillor Brian Jones also arranged for Darlington Borough Council to use its own speed gun to monitor speeds on Hill House Lane between 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. on a Monday morning. On that occasion the traffic was generally 'well behaved', and the maximum speed recorded was 39 mph. Councillor Brian Jones will see whether he can borrow the speed gun to do some further monitoring.

11. Children's playground

- 11.1 There are two long-standing problems with the children's playground off Abbey Road.
- The ground gets very waterlogged.
 - The Borough Council cannot get large grass cutting machines in to the playground along the narrow access paths.
- 11.2 The drain that runs under the playground and out under the adjacent farm field is damaged.
- 11.3 The Borough Council has been negotiating with the farm owner about the possibility of buying a strip of land to provide better access for grass cutting machines.
- 11.4 Councillor Brian Jones has reminded the Borough Council staff that Reiver Homes has provided £11,200 to enhance playing facilities in Sadberge.

12. Publicity for fixed taxi fares between Sadberge and Darlington

- 12.1 A Darlington taxi company is considering the possibility of operating fixed fares between local villages and Darlington.
- 12.2 It was agreed that the existence of such fares could be communicated in a Parish Council newsletter or flyer.

13. Darlington Association of Parish Councils and Parish Meetings

- 13.1 The Annual Meeting between the Darlington Association of Parish Councils (DAPC) and Darlington Borough Council will take place on the evening of Tuesday 18-Nov-2008. The quarterly meeting of DAPC will take place on the same evening.

- 13.2 It was agreed to ask for the following items to be put on the agenda:-
- Planning policy on wind farms within the Borough of Darlington.
 - 7.5 te weight restriction for Saberge.
 - The Sadberge Energy Saving Project.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

- 13.3 DAPC had asked parish councils to consider two issues raised in the consultation document ***Communities in control: Real people, real power*** concerning codes of conduct for local authority members and employees. It was agreed that:-
- Sadberge Parish Council agrees with the proposal to amend the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 so that paragraph 12(2) automatically applies to parish councils. This would make it mandatory for parish councils that a member with a prejudicial interest may make representations at a meeting only if members of the public are able to attend that meeting for the same purpose.
 - Sadberge Parish Council does not see any difficulties with extending the proposed employees' code of conduct to employees of parish council.

14. Christmas tree

14.1 A Christmas tree has been ordered. It will be put up on Saturday 29-Nov-2008.

14.2 It was agreed to budget up to £45 for additional lights for the tree. The Clerk will obtain the lights.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

14.3 The Clerk will arrange for the electricity supply to be made live.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

15. External audit

15.1 The External Auditor has passed the Council's Annual Report for the 2007-08 without raising any exceptions. However, the External Auditor has identified a number of issues for the Council's attention. It was agreed to consider these issues at a future meeting.

15.2 The Council approved the following payments:-

- External audit fee £141.00

16. Budget for 2009-10

Discussion of this topic was deferred until the next meeting.

17. Planning

17.1 The Council noted the outcome of the following planning application:-

- Granted 08/00707/FUL Erection of single storey extensions to the rear and side of New House, Church Lane.

17.2 The Council approved the following planning application without comment:-

- 08/00805/FUL Erection of a one-bedroom residential dwelling in the garden of West View Cottage, Darlington Road.

18. Correspondence

The Council noted the following correspondence:-

18.1 Invitation to comment on Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's **Core Strategy Development Plan** document.

18.2 Letter from County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust about a consultation on proposals for the future of hospital services in this area.

19. Next meeting

The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held in Sadberge Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 9th December 2008.

*Please note that this meeting has subsequently been re-scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on **Tuesday 16th December 2008.***

Alastair Mackenzie
Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4th NOVEMBER 2008

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

Signed: Councillor M Scaife _____ Date _____