

# SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

---

## Minutes of the meeting held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2009 in Sadberge Village Hall

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

**In attendance:** Councillor Brian Jones Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Brown and Schott.

### 2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

### 3. Meeting with Phil Wilson MP

Phil Wilson was unable to attend the meeting.

### 4. Minutes of the last meeting

It was pointed out that Councillor Brian Jones was not present at the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2008. With this amendment, the minutes of the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2008 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

### 5. Matters arising

- 5.1 Middleton St. George Parish Council has agreed in principle to buy a storage container for installation at the Middleton St. George Water Park. There are options to buy either a new container or a second hand one.

It was pointed out that containers often suffer from problems caused by condensation. It might be worth installing a false roof.

After discussion, it was agreed that Sadberge Parish Council will contribute half of the cost of a storage container up to a maximum of £900, provided that the issue of condensation is resolved. The Clerk will make the final decision after consulting with Councillor Schott.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

- 5.2 There was no further news about Darlington Borough Council's review of its supported bus services.

- 5.3 There was no further news about the possibility of creating additional parking spaces.

- 5.4 There was no further news about the Parish Council's request for a 7.5 te weight restriction for Sadberge.

- 5.5 The caravan that was parked at the back of Hampass has been removed.

- 5.6 Les Elders paid for the Christmas tree on Sadberge village green.

The Chair of Middleton St. George Parish Council, Doris Jones, congratulates Sadberge on its Christmas tree.

The Clerk – with assistance from some of the parish councillors – will remove the tree.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

### 6. Wind farms near Sadberge

- 6.1 There was nothing new to report on the proposed wind farms near Sadberge.

- 6.2 The Seven Parishes Action Group (SPAG) is hoping to meet soon to discuss the planning application to install a wind monitoring mast near Little Stainton.

- 6.3 It was agreed that Sadberge Parish Council has no objection to the proposed wind monitoring mast near Little Stainton, provided that any permission for the wind monitoring mast will not make it more likely that permission will subsequently be given for the construction of wind turbines. The Clerk will communicate this to the relevant Planning Officer. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 6.4 The Clerk has printed copies of the 'wind farms' addendum to the Sadberge Parish Plan and the two supporting documents.

## 7. Tree planting in Sadberge

- 7.1 Two of the old cherry tree stumps have been removed from the village green near Mayfield House South. Another two stumps have still to be removed.
- 7.2 A tree has been planted on the village green in front of the old Post Office.
- 7.3 Three trees have been planted on the slope at the northern edge of the main part of the village green.
- 7.4 The residents of 7 and 7A East View have expressed concern about the trees that have been planted on the slope at the northern edge of the main part of the village green. In particular:-
- One of the trees is too close to their houses.
  - When their leaves are out, the trees will block light and views. In particular, Neighbourhood Watch members will be unable to keep an eye on cars parked at the bottom of the slope.
  - Birds sitting in the trees will dirty cars parked below. Also, leaves and branches may fall on parked cars.
  - Because they are planted on a slope, the trees might not be stable in high winds.
  - It would be better to plant trees on the verge at the Middleton Road entrance to the village.
  - The decision to plant the trees was taken without consulting local residents.

It was pointed out that Phil Haynes, Darlington Borough Council's Senior Arboricultural Officer, had taken care to select types of tree that are suitable for the location. In particular:-

- This type of tree is very upright and only spreads to about 2 - 3 metres.
- It grows to a height of about 35 feet.
- The roots go downwards and do not extend outwards very far. This type of tree is often used in paved areas, as its roots do not lift paving slabs.
- In Phil's opinion, it is a perfect type of tree for this location.

It was further pointed out that:-

- The trees are to the north-east of East View, so they should not block the light to East View houses.
- It does not look as if the trees will block the view from East View to cars parked at the bottom of the slope at the northern edge of the village green.
- The deep roots should ensure that the trees are stable.

It was agreed to seek further advice from Phil Haynes. The Clerk will write to the residents of 7 and 7A East View explaining this and apologising for the lack of consultation.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 8. Access to the sports field north of St. Andrew's Park

- 8.1 Councillor Schott is concerned that the access ramp to the playing field to the north of St. Andrew's Park is too steep to provide disabled access.
- 8.2 As Councillor Schott was not present, it was agreed to defer discussion of this subject until the next meeting.

## 9. Calor Village of the Year competition

- 9.1 The Council reviewed the feedback from the Calor Village of the Year judges.

9.2 Local residents will be asked for their views on how the prize money should be spent. Ideas include:-

- A celebration party, possibly including a "Sadberge has got Talent" show.
- Vehicle-activated signs to remind drivers to keep to the 30 mph speed limit in the village.
- Additional parking in the centre of the village.
- Wooden carving(s) / sculpture(s), possibly using the stumps of the three sycamore trees that are due to be cut down near Tithe House.

## 10. Newsletter

10.1 It was agreed that a Parish Council newsletter will be issued during January 2009.

10.2 The main topic will be Sadberge's success in the 2008 Calor Village of the Year competition.

10.3 The Clerk will produce and issue the newsletter in consultation with Councillor Scaife.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 11. Consultation on a proposed code of recommended practice on local authority publicity

Discussion of this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

## 12. Approval of payments

The following payments were approved:-

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| • Kerbing along the edge of the village green at Spring Garth | £650.00 |
| • Colour laser printing for the wind farms documents          | £7.50   |
| • Room hire for Council meetings                              | £221.75 |
| • Room hire for Parish Plan meetings                          | £82.00  |

## 13. Planning

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

- Refused 08/00805/FUL Erection of a dwelling at West View Cottage, Darlington Road

## 14. Correspondence

The Council noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter from the Parochial Church Council thanking the Parish Council for the donation towards the cost of mince pies and mulled wine at the Carol Service on 21-Dec-2008.
- Letter from Victim Support County Durham requesting a donation.
- Letter from the NHS County Durham and Darlington PCT giving information about their Commissioning Intentions for 2009-10 and inviting comments.

## 15. Next meeting

The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held in Sadberge Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2009.

**Alastair Mackenzie**  
Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2009

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

Signed: Councillor M Scaife \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_