

# SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the meeting held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2009 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 Councillor Glew.

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

The Clerk declared an interest in Item 20 – Clerk's absence.

### 3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2009 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

### 4. Matters arising

- 4.1 There has been no further progress on plans to obtain a storage container.

Problems with condensation can be avoided by installing a timber lining in the container.

It was confirmed that Sadberge Parish Council is prepared to contribute half of the cost of a timber-lined storage container up to a maximum of £900. The Clerk will make the final decision after consulting with Councillor Schott. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

Robin Hind has offered to provide storage space for the flooring used for Morris dancing on the village green. The Clerk will write to Robin thanking him for his offer.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

- 4.2 There was no further news about Darlington Borough Council's review of its supported bus services. The existing contracts for supported bus services have been extended for one month in order to allow time for consultation on the Borough Council's proposed budget for 2009-10.

The Clerk will have a look at the Borough Council's draft Medium Term Corporate Plan to check that there is no threat to the supported bus services through Sadberge.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

- 4.3 The January issue of Sadberge Parish News went out as planned, although one of the outlying farms was missed during the distribution of the newsletter.

### 5. Meeting with Phil Wilson

- 5.1 Several of the Sadberge Parish Councillors had a meeting with Phil Wilson MP on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

- 5.2 Subjects discussed included the Sadberge Parish Plan, wind farms, traffic, 7.5 te weight limit and schools.

- 5.3 It was agreed that the meeting had been a good opportunity to raise issues with our MP and that Phil Wilson had been willing to spend time listening to our concerns.

- 5.4 Since the meeting, Phil Wilson has sent a letter informing the Council that he has written to Hugh Lang of Durham Tees Airport and John Williams of Darlington Borough Council concerning the wind turbines, and that he has written to Chief Constable John Stoddard for his comments concerning heavy goods vehicles and speeding cars.

## 6. Wind farms near Sadberge

- 6.1 Martyn Earle of Banks Developments has written to Adrian Hobbs (Planning Officer in Darlington Borough Council) giving detailed responses to the suggestions in the two supporting documents to the 'wind farms' addendum to the Sadberge Parish Plan.

The Council discussed the points made in Martyn Earle's letter and agreed the content of a letter that the Clerk will send to Adrian Hobbs. The Clerk will finalise the wording of the letter in consultation with Councillor Scaife.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

Provided that Martyn Earle agrees, the Clerk will put both his letter and Sadberge Parish Council's response on to the Sadberge web site.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

- 6.2 There was a meeting of the Seven Parishes Action Group (SPAG) on Monday 26-Jan-2009. SPAG will be sending three representatives to the Darlington Borough Council Planning Meeting on Wednesday 11-Feb-2009 to object to the application to erect a wind monitoring mast at Gilly Flat Farm, near Little Stainton.

- 6.3 A Sadberge resident who was present at the SPAG meeting subsequently contacted the Clerk expressing his concern that Sadberge appears to have a low profile within SPAG and that Sadberge Parish Council had not alerted Sadberge residents to the planning applications for the two wind monitoring masts.

The Clerk reported that he had replied to the resident pointing out that the wind monitoring mast planning applications are largely irrelevant to the campaign against wind farms near Sadberge, that Sadberge Parish Council has communicated its opposition to wind farms to the relevant Planning Officers and that Sadberge will mount a vigorous and intensive campaign against wind farms at the appropriate time. Efforts are being made to arrange for the Clerk and Councillor Scaife to meet the local resident to discuss these issues.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 7. Tree planting in Sadberge

- 7.1 The Council noted a letter from a resident of East View, expressing concerns about the trees that have been planted on the slope at the northern edge of the main part of the village green.
- 7.2 The Clerk will ask Phil Haynes, Darlington Borough Council's Senior Arboricultural Officer, to visit the resident to discuss the concerns.
- 7.3 The Clerk will ask Phil Haynes to advise the Parish Council what, if any, action should be taken to address the residents' concerns about the new trees.
- 7.4 The Clerk has still to put in the notifications to obtain permission to fell the three sycamore trees on the village green near Tithe House and to prune the trees on the main part of the village green.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

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

- 8.1 The current access ramp to the playing field to the north of St. Andrew's Park is too steep to provide disabled access.
- 8.2 Councillor Brian Jones reported that the Planning Officer has informed him that the current access ramp is a temporary one for use by the builders working on St. Andrew's Park. Once the building work is complete the current ramp will be replaced by a more appropriate access system. The Planning Officer has warned, however, that the layout of the bank will make it difficult to provide full disabled access to the field.

## 9. Dog fouling in Sadberge

- 9.1 A local resident had written to the Council expressing concern about dog dirt on pavements and grass verges in Sadberge.
- 9.2 After discussion, the following actions were agreed:-
- The Clerk will contact Darlington Borough Council's Uniformed Wardens to ask them to help to deal with this problem.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

- The Clerk will ask the Street Scene Team if it would be possible to install another dog dirt bin somewhere in Norton Crescent. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 10. Litter in Norton Crescent

10.1 A local resident had written to the Council expressing concern about litter in Norton Crescent.

10.2 After discussion, the following actions were agreed:-

- The Clerk will contact Darlington Borough Council's Uniformed Wardens to ask them to help to deal with this problem. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- The Clerk will ask the Street Scene Team to provide an additional litter bin near the entrance to St. Andrew's Park. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- The Clerk will write to Reiver Homes asking them to encourage their workers not to drop litter. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 11. Parking in Norton Crescent

11.1 A local resident had written to the Council expressing concern about parking in Norton Crescent. In particular:-

- Commercial vehicles are left parked on the pavement for lengthy periods.
- The pavement has been damaged by vehicles parked on it.
- Residents of St. Andrew's Park are parking on Norton Crescent. As residents of Norton Crescent also park on the same street, this is restricting access.

11.2 The following points were made during the Council's discussion:-

- It is an offence for a vehicle to be parked so that it obstructs a footpath.
- Why are St. Andrew's Park residents parking in Norton Crescent? This may be temporary issue that will resolve itself once the construction of St. Andrew's Park is complete.

11.3 The following actions were agreed:-

- The Clerk will contact Darlington Borough Council's Uniformed Wardens to ask them to look into the problem of parking on pavements. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- The Parish Council will monitor the parking situation in Norton Crescent once St. Andrew's Park is complete.

11.4 The Clerk will write to the local resident who raised the issues discussed in items 9 - 11 to inform her about the Parish Council's decisions. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 12. Project to commemorate Sadberge's success in the 2008 Calor Village of the Year competition

12.1 The Council reviewed the initial feedback from Sadberge residents about what should be done with the commemoration project fund.

Up to 2-Feb-2008, the Clerk had received 32 responses.

Of those who expressed a view, 76% indicated that project fund money should not be used for a celebration party.

The scores for the suggested uses of the money were:-

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| • Chainsaw carving / sculpture for the village green | 8  |
| • Speed sensing "30 mph – Slow Down" signs           | 34 |
| • Additional parking in the centre of the village    | 4  |
| • Other suggestions                                  | 12 |

12.2 It was agreed that the Council will review the feedback again at its next meeting.

12.3 The Clerk will contact Darlington Borough Council's Highways Department to investigate the feasibility and costs of (a) installing and maintaining speed sensing signs and/or (b) providing additional parking. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

### 13. Grass cutting in the St. Andrew's churchyard

Discussion of this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

### 14. Implementation of the Sadberge Parish Plan

14.1 The Climate Change Working Group has been shortlisted for an Evening Chronicle Environment Award in the Community Group category. The award ceremony will take place in Newcastle on Tuesday 24-Feb-2009.

14.2 Seven Sadberge households have had loft insulation and/or cavity wall insulation installed under the Go Warm scheme.

14.3 The Climate Change Working Group is proposing to take infrared photographs of houses in Sadberge to show where heat is escaping.

The Parish Council was concerned that taking infra-red photographs of people's houses could be seen as intrusive, and advised the Climate Change Working Group that such photographs should only be taken if the residents have given their permission.

### 15. Planning

The Council approved the following planning applications without comment:-

- 09/00010/FUL Variation of a planning condition in order to allow the floodlights at Middleton Riding Centre to be used until 10 p.m. instead of 9 p.m.
- 09/00028/FUL Erection of a single storey extension to form additional bedrooms at Lea Close, Middleton Road.

### 16. Darlington Borough Council's Sport and Physical Activity Facilities Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy

Discussion of this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

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

Discussion of this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

### 18. Consultation on Darlington Borough Council's "Design of New Development" Supplementary Planning Document

18.1 The Clerk gave a brief overview of the contents of the "Design of New Development" Supplementary Planning Document.

18.2 It was agreed that:-

- The proposals in the document look sensible.
- The connections between Darlington and the rural areas should include a bridleway / footpath / cycle path linking Sadberge to Middleton St. George and Darlington.
- The Sadberge development limits should not be changed.

The Clerk will communicate these comments to Darlington Borough Council.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

### 19. Publication scheme

Discussion of this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

### 20. Clerk's absence

20.1 Due to the Clerk's unavailability during March, the Council's March meeting will be brought forward to Tuesday 24-Feb-2009.

The Clerk left the meeting.

20.2 It was unanimously agreed that no deduction should be made from the clerk's salary.

The Clerk returned to the meeting.

**21. Midsummer Morris Festival accounts**

Discussion of this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

**22. Approval of payments**

The following payments were approved:-

• Printing for the 2008 Midsummer Morris Festival	£54.00
• Printing for the Parish Plan	£69.31
• Printing for the Sadberge Energy Saving Project	£63.00
• Newsletter printing	£63.00
• Miscellaneous printing	£20.00

**23. Register of Assets**

Discussion of this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

**24. Powers under which payments have been made**

Discussion of this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

**25. Correspondence**

The Council noted the following correspondence:-

- Agenda and papers for the Darlington Borough Council Standards Committee meeting on 2-Feb-2009.

**26. Next meeting**

The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held in Sadberge Village Hall at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

**Alastair Mackenzie**  
Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2009

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

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