

# SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the meeting held at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2009 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 Best, and the reason for his absence (an accident requiring a hospital visit) was approved.

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

Councillor Scaife declared an interest in Item 9 – Maintenance of the St. Andrew's churchyard.

### 3. Councillor Brown's absence

Councillor Scaife reported that Councillor Brown had been unable to attend Council meetings over the last few months due to ill health. The Council approved this reason for Councillor Brown's absence.

### 4. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2009 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

### 5. Matters arising

- 5.1 Councillor Schott had obtained a quote for installing a timber lining in a storage container. The cost of the lining itself would be £345 + VAT, and there may be an additional cost of about £50 for welding brackets to the container.

It was suggested that it may be possible to obtain a container that already has a timber lining.

Middleton St. George Parish Council is checking the cost of extending the model boat club building to provide storage space.

Councillor Schott will continue to investigate the options for obtaining a suitable storage container.

**ACTION:** Councillor Schott

The Council confirmed that the Clerk has the delegated authority to make a decision about obtaining a storage container after consulting with Councillor Schott.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

- 5.2 At its meeting on 17-Feb-2009, Darlington Borough Council's Cabinet recommended that contracts should be placed for supported bus services. The #17 and #18 services are included in the list.  
Sadberge Parish Council thanked Councillor Brian Jones for his support on this issue.
- 5.3 The Clerk has contacted Darlington Borough Council's Uniformed Wardens to ask for their help with the issue of dog fouling in the eastern half of Sadberge, and John Herdman has subsequently delivered leaflets to Norton Road and Norton Crescent. (Leaflets were not delivered to Abbey Road and Dale Road on this occasion because residents of those roads received leaflets last year.)  
The Clerk has also asked Darlington Borough Council's Street Scene Team if it would be possible to install an additional dog dirt bin on Norton Crescent near the entrance to St. Andrew's Park.
- 5.4 The Clerk has asked Darlington Borough Council's Street Scene Team if it would be possible to install an additional litter bin on Norton Crescent near the entrance to St. Andrew's Park.  
The Clerk has also written to Reiver Homes asking them to encourage their workforce to make an effort to keep the area tidy.

- 5.5 Councillor Brian Jones will contact Darlington Borough Council's Enforcement Officer about the cars for sale on Norton Road and Norton Crescent. **ACTION:** Councillor Brian Jones
- 5.6 The Clerk has written to Darlington Borough Council giving the Parish Council's comments on the "Design of New Development" Supplementary Planning Document.
- 5.7 The Clerk has asked Darlington Borough Council's Highways Officer, Andy Casey, to investigate the feasibility and costs of providing additional parking in The Orchard.
- 5.8 Andy Casey is continuing to investigate the possibility of implementing a 7.5 te weight limit covering the whole of Sadberge Village. He is currently waiting for a response from Stockton Borough Council.

## 6. Wind farms near Sadberge

- 6.1 There will be a SPAG Committee Meeting on the evening of Monday 2-Mar-2009. Councillor Brian Jones will attend.
- 6.2 The Clerk has been unable to arrange a meeting with the Sadberge resident who had expressed 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.  
Councillor Scaife will try to make contact with the resident to explain Sadberge Parish Council's strategy for opposing wind farms near Sadberge. **ACTION:** Councillor Scaife
- 6.3 In an article in the Northern Echo, a member of the Alliance for Clean Energy (ACE) questioned the validity of the survey of Sadberge residents' views on the possibility of wind farms near Sadberge. Alastair Mackenzie has written a letter to the Northern Echo pointing out that the response rate to the Sadberge wind farms questionnaire was higher than the turn-out at the last Darlington Borough Council elections.

## 7. Tree planting in Sadberge

- 7.1 Phil Haynes, Darlington Borough Council's Senior Arboricultural Officer, has visited two of the residents who had raised concerns about the trees planted on the bank at the northern edge of the village green. He believes that the residents will be less concerned once they see how the trees develop over time.
- 7.2 It was agreed to review the situation in a year's time.
- 7.3 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

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

The Clerk has had a meeting with Andy Casey, Highways Officer in Darlington Borough Council, and has asked him to investigate the feasibility and costs of (a) providing additional parking spaces near the centre of Sadberge Village and (b) installing speed-sensing "30 mph – Slow Down" signs on Hill House Lane, Norton Road and/or Middleton Road.

## 9. Maintenance of the St. Andrew's Churchyard

In response to a request from the St. Andrew's Parochial Church Council, Sadberge Parish Council decided to make a donation of £475 towards the cost of maintaining the St. Andrew's churchyard, and approved the relevant payment.

## 10. Implementation of the Sadberge Parish Plan

- 10.1 The Climate Change Working Group did not win the Community Group award in the Evening Chronicle Environment Awards.

10.2 Infra-red photographs have been taken of those Sadberge houses whose residents responded to the offer in the last Sadberge Energy Saving Project flyer. The photographs will be delivered to the relevant households once Alastair Mackenzie returns from holiday.

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

The Clerk reported that he had replied to a questionnaire about sport and physical activity facilities in Sadberge, giving information about Sadberge Village Hall and the sports field to the north of St. Andrew's Park.

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

12.1 The Council has been asked to comment on proposed changes to the code of recommended practice on local authority publicity.

12.2 After discussion, it was agreed that:-

- Parish Councils should be able to assist other government bodies in publicising events or services that are relevant to the residents of the parish.
- The statement that "it is therefore inappropriate for public resources to be used to publicise individual councillors" appears to ban the type of publicity that would enable councils and councillors to help people to understand who their elected representatives are and what they are doing on behalf of those who elected them, and to raise the level of awareness of the role of councillors.

12.3 The Ward Councillor's News page on the Sadberge web site is an example of a case where Sadberge Parish Council (a) assists Darlington Borough Council to publicise information relevant to Sadberge residents and (b) helps people to understand what their Ward Councillor is doing on their behalf. The code of practice should not appear to inhibit this type of arrangement.

12.4 The Clerk will communicate the Council's comments to the relevant body after consultation with Councillor Scaife about the detailed wording. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

#### **13. Publication scheme**

13.1 The Council adopted the model publication scheme provided by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

13.2 The Clerk will provide Councillors with a draft publication schedule for discussion at a future meeting. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

#### **14. Midsummer Morris Festival accounts**

14.1 The Council approved the accounts of the 2008 Midsummer Morris Festival.

14.2 For information: There will be a meeting of the 2009 Festival organising committee in the Three Tuns at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 24-Mar-2009.

#### **15. Clerk's absence**

The following payment was approved:-

- Clerk's salary                      £1,194.00

#### **16. Register of Assets**

16.1 The Council reviewed a draft Register of Assets that had been drawn up by the Clerk.

16.2 All Councillors will go through the draft register and see if they can provide an additional information on the Council's assets and their costs. **ACTION:** All

**17. Internal controls**

17.1 The Council reviewed its internal controls, including the measures designed to prevent fraud.

17.2 It was agreed that the Council's internal controls are appropriate and effective.

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

18.1 The Council reviewed the list of powers under which payments have been made.

18.2 For information: The list of powers under which payments have been made during the 2008 – 09 financial year will be attached to the minutes of the next meeting.

**19. Correspondence**

The Council noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter from a local resident enquiring about the pruning work that was done to the sycamore tree near the end of Hillside Terrace, and the Clerk's reply to the resident.
- Letter requesting financial support for the Great North Air Ambulance..

**20. Next meeting**

The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held in Sadberge Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

**Alastair Mackenzie**  
**Clerk**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2009

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

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