

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 7th April 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.

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Brown, and the reason for his absence (holiday) was approved.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Councillor Scaife declared an interest in Item 7 – Request for a grant.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 24th February 2009 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

- 4.1 Middleton St. George Parish Council has suggested that it might be possible to use the disused toilet building on the bank at Middleton One Row to provide storage facilities for Middleton and Sadberge Parish Councils. The building is a solid structure and is in a good state of repair. Darlington Borough Council may be prepared to remove the existing internal fittings.

It was agreed to pursue this idea in partnership with Middleton St. George Parish Council, and the Council thanked Councillor Doris Jones for her work on this issue.

- 4.2 Following Darlington Borough Council's review of its supported bus services, the existing bus services through Sadberge will continue to operate. From 5-May-2009 these services will be provided by Scarlet Band Motor Services. Councillor Brian Jones has spoken to Scarlet Band's Transport Services Manager and has received an assurance that Scarlet Band will do their best to provide a reliable, high quality service.

It was pointed out that the bus timetable information on the Sadberge web site is out of date.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

- 4.3 There was no news about the request for an additional dog dirt bin in Norton Crescent.

- 4.4 The Clerk has written to Riever Homes about the litter in Norton Crescent.

Councillor Brian Jones reported that he had made a recent visit to Norton Crescent and found that there was virtually no litter.

- 4.5 There was no news about the issue of parking in Norton Crescent.

- 4.6 Councillor Brian Jones has met the Darlington Borough Council Enforcement Officer, Neil Foreman, to discuss the issue of cars for sale in Norton Crescent and on Norton Road. Neil has made two visits to the person thought to be responsible, and recently there has been no sign of vehicles for sale on Norton Crescent or Norton Road.

It was suggested that if the problem recurs then it might be worth getting bollards installed to prevent parking on the relevant sections of pavement.

- 4.7 There was no news about the Parish Council's request for Darlington Borough Council to investigate the possibility of providing additional parking in The Orchard. The Clerk will contact Darlington Borough Council again.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

- 4.8 There was no news about the Parish Council's request for Darlington Borough Council to implement a 7.5 te weight limit for Sadberge.

- 4.9 The Clerk had submitted the Council's comments on the proposed code of recommended practice on local authority publicity.
- 4.10 There was no news about the tree planting and stump grinding in Sadberge. The Clerk has still to submit the notification to fell trees in a conservation area. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

5. Wind farms near Sadberge

- 5.1 After a site visit, Darlington Borough Council's Planning Committee has granted planning permission for the erection of a wind monitoring mast near Little Stainton.
The Darlington Association of Parish Councils has written to Darlington Borough Council about whether it is appropriate for Planning Committee members to vote on a planning application if they have not participated in a relevant site visit.
- 5.2 There was no news of any further activity by the developers proposing to construct wind farms near Sadberge.
- 5.3 Councillor Scaife had had a lengthy meeting with the Sadberge resident who had expressed concern that Sadberge appears to have a low profile within SPAG, and the matter has been resolved in a satisfactory manner.
- 5.4 It was pointed out that it is important for Sadberge to be represented at SPAG meetings. Councillor Scaife tries to attend these meetings, but if she is unavailable then other Councillors should try to go along. **ACTION:** All

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

- 6.1 The Clerk has asked Darlington Borough Council to investigate the feasibility and costs of providing (a) speed sensing signs and/or (b) additional parking near the centre of the village. He has not yet received a response.
It was agreed that it would be useful to have the information available in time for the Sadberge Parish Meeting in May. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

7. Request for a grant

- 7.1 The St. Andrew's Parochial Church Council had written to request an additional grant. The cost of cutting the grass in the St. Andrew's churchyard has risen from £900 per year to £1,320 per year, and the Parochial Church Council is having to draw on its reserves to balance its budget.
- 7.2 After discussion, the Council decided to make an additional donation of £100 towards the cost of maintaining the St. Andrew's churchyard, and approved the relevant payment.

8. Request for support for a grant application

- 8.1 The Sadberge Village Hall Association had asked for a letter of support for its application for a grant to refurbish the Village Hall kitchen.
- 8.2 It was agreed that the Parish Council supports the Village Hall Association's grant application. The Clerk will write a letter confirming this. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

9. Implementation of the Sadberge Parish Plan

- 9.1 It was pointed out the new village garden opposite the Buck Inn looks wonderful.
The Council agreed to provide up to £80 to pay for for kerbstones to around the edge of this garden.
- 9.2 Carol Carter, Street Scene Team Leader in Darlington Borough Council, has suggested that Sadberge should enter the Britain in Bloom competition.

10. Village festival

- 10.1 Arrangements for the 2009 village festival are in hand. The festival will be held on Saturday 11-Jul-2009, with a theme of "Saxon Sadberge".

10.2 The Clerk will apply for permission to use Town Farm Field for parking on the day of the festival.
ACTION: A Mackenzie

10.3 The official festival opening ceremony will take place at 1:15 p.m. on the village green.

10.4 There will be no parade along the road this year, as the organising group feels that the expense cannot be justified when the parade is reliant on the weather. Last year the weather was so bad that the parade did not take place, so the road closure cost of nearly £300 was wasted

10.5 There will be village stocks with people throwing wet sponges rather than rotten fruit. It was suggested that some Councillors might volunteer to go into the stocks.

10.6 The two village pubs will be doing maypole dancing.

10.7 There will be a flower festival in St. Andrew's Church.

10.8 During the weeks before the festival there will be family craft workshops to help people to make shields and Saxon jewellery. During the festival itself there will be a 'shield wall' display.

10.9 The Parish Council confirmed that it will provide £500 towards the budget for the festival.

11. Public footpaths

11.1 There have been complaints that the footpaths in the countryside around Sadberge are very overgrown.

The Clerk will ask Darlington Borough Council to get the footpaths sorted out. It is important that this is done before the summer.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

11.2 It was agreed that it would be useful to have a map of the footpaths around Sadberge. The Clerk will bring information about the practicalities and costs to the next meeting.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

12. Newsletter

12.1 It was agreed to defer consideration of the next Parish Council newsletter until the next meeting.

12.2 Councillor Brian Jones will be issuing his Ward Councillor's newsletter very shortly.

13. Planning

The Council decided to object to planning application 09/00155/FUL, which is for the erection of a residential dwelling at West View Cottage, on the following grounds:-

- The proposal would result in a cramped development that would be detrimental to the character of the village. This is of particular concern because the property is located at one of the entrances to the village.
- The Council is concerned about the safety of the access from the proposed development on to Darlington Road.

14. Publication scheme

14.1 The model publication scheme (which the Council adopted on 24-Feb-2009) requires the Council to produce and publish a schedule of the information that it makes available to the public on a regular basis.

14.2 The Council reviewed a draft schedule of information prepared by the Clerk and, with some minor amendments, approved it. See Appendix 1 to these minutes.

15. Register of Assets

15.1 The Council reviewed its draft Register of Assets.

15.2 Councillor Schott will provide information about the costs of the benches, the flagpole on the village green, etc.

ACTION: Councillor Schott

15.3 The Clerk will continue to compile the Register of Assets, and will present an updated draft at the next meeting.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

16. Powers under which payments have been made

The Council reviewed and approved the list of powers under which payments were made during the 2008 - 09 financial year. See Appendix 2 to these minutes.

17. Sadberge Parish Meeting and Sadberge Parish Council Annual Meeting

17.1 The Sadberge Parish Meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 19th May 2009, with the Annual Meeting of Sadberge Parish Council following immediately afterwards.

17.2 The Clerk will arrange for refreshments (i.e. tea, coffee and nibbles) to be provided.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

18. Correspondence

The Council noted the following correspondence:-

- Invitation to attend a training session on Ethical Governance on Friday 8-May-2009.

19. Next meeting

The Annual Meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held in Sadberge Village Hall on the evening of Tuesday 19th May 2009. The Parish Council will follow immediately after the Parish Meeting, which starts at 6:30 p.m.

Alastair Mackenzie
Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7th APRIL 2009

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

Signed: Councillor M Scaife _____ Date _____