

# SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Annual Meeting held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2009 in Sadberge Village Hall

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

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

### 1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

- 1.1 Councillor Scaife was elected as Chair of the Council for the coming year.
- 1.2 Councillor Best was elected as Vice-Chair of the Council for the coming year.
- 1.3 Councillors Scaife and Best signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Heywood.

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

- 3.1 Councillors Scaife and Schott declared an interest in Item 11 – Request for a grant.
- 3.2 The Clerk declared an interest in Item 9 – Parking on Middleton Road.

### 5. Matters arising

- 5.1 A member of the public has asked Middleton St. George Parish Council to re-open the disused toilet building at Middleton One Row. There will therefore be a delay before it can be established whether it might be possible to use that building to provide storage facilities for Middleton and Sadberge Parish Councils.
- 5.2 There was no news about the request for an additional dog dirt bin in Norton Crescent.
- 5.3 Darlington Borough Council's Traffic Management & Road Safety Manager, Andy Casey, had sent a letter advising that using the grassed area in The Orchard to provide additional parking would cost approximately £8,000 and would result in only one additional parking space.  
It was agreed not to take this any further.  
The Clerk will write to the relevant resident to explain the situation.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

- 5.4 Andy Casey had also sent a letter responding to the Parish Council's request for a 7.5 te weight limit covering the whole of Sadberge village. The request has been declined. Andy Casey made the following points in his letter:-
  - It has taken some time for Darlington Borough Council to respond to the Parish Council's request because they needed to consult with Durham Constabulary, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Cleveland Police.
  - Durham Constabulary objected to the proposed restriction due to concerns about enforcement, safety and road sign clutter.
  - Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council did not support the proposed restriction because of the potential diversion of heavy goods vehicles on to more inappropriate routes within Stockton Borough".
  - Cleveland Police did not support the proposed restriction due to enforcement difficulties.

It was agreed that there was no point in pursuing this any further, and the Parish Council will take no further action on this issue.

- 5.5 Applications have been submitted for permission to (a) fell the three sycamore trees on the village green near Tithe House and (b) prune various trees on the village green.

The Clerk will investigate whether it might be possible for the wood chips resulting from the tree felling and pruning to be made available to Sadberge residents.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

- 5.6 The Clerk sent a letter expressing the Council's support for the Sadberge Village Hall Association's application for a grant to refurbish the village hall kitchen.
- 5.7 The Clerk has still to arrange for some of the information listed in the Council's Schedule of Information to be made available on the Sadberge web site. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 5.8 The Clerk attended the training session on Ethical Governance on 8-May-2009.

#### 10. Playing field north of St. Andrew's Park

- 10.1 A Sadberge resident had written to Councillor Brian Jones asking whether steps will be taken to bring the playing field north of St. Andrew's Park back into use.
- 10.2 Some of the planning conditions have not been satisfied. In particular, although the ramp down to the playing field is okay for grass cutting equipment it is not suitable for disabled access. Given the layout of the site, including the trees on the bank at between St. Andrew's Park and the playing field, it may not be practical to provide proper disabled access to the field.  
After a site visit, Councillor Brian Jones Emma Wilkinson (the relevant Planning Officer) are proposing that there should be a viewing platform at the top of the slope rather than disabled access to the playing field itself.
- 10.3 It was pointed out that for safety reasons there needs to be a gate at the top of the ramp. There also need to be handrails beside the steps going down the edge of the ramp.
- 10.4 The Clerk will write to Emma Wilkinson expressing the Parish Council's concern about the fact that planning conditions have not been adhered to and asking for the Council to be given an opportunity to see the drawings of the proposed viewing platform before any decisions are taken.  
**ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 10.5 The Clerk will arrange for the availability of the playing field to be publicised on the Sadberge web site.  
**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

Councillor Brian Jones left the meeting.

#### 4. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2009 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

#### 6. Wind farms near Sadberge

- 6.1 The Council approved the 16-page letter that the Clerk had sent to Adrian Hobbs (Darlington Borough Council Planning Officer) on the subject of noise from wind farms.  
One specific concern is a phenomenon called aerodynamic modulation (AM), which causes the noise from a wind farm to take on a loud, 'thumping' characteristic and to become audible at a considerable distance from the wind farm.
- 6.2 The Clerk has written to Phil Wilson MP giving him an overview of aerodynamic modulation and asking him to meet representatives of the Parish Council to discuss the issue.
- 6.3 Councillor Scaife and the Clerk will arrange to meet Adrian Hobbs and Roy Merrett to discuss aerodynamic modulation and what needs to be done to provide local residents with effective protection from wind farm noise.  
**ACTION:** Councillor Scaife / A Mackenzie
- 6.4 The Clerk will brief Paul Cook (Darlington & Stockton Times journalist) about aerodynamic modulation of noise from wind turbines.  
**ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 6.5 There was no news of any further activity by the developers proposing to construct wind farms near Sadberge.

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

- 7.1 In response to a request from the Parish Council, Andy Casey had sent a letter giving his views on the ideas for a project to commemorate Sadberge's success in the 2008 Calor Village of the Year Competition.

Andy would not agree to a proposal to create parking spaces on the south side of Stockton Road opposite the Three Tuns (i.e. behind the old bus stop lay-by) because of highway safety concerns. In particular, vehicles would end up reversing out on to the road on the inside of a bend, where they would have very limited sight of on-coming vehicles.

It would be possible to create a rank of five parking spaces at the north end of Hampass, but it would cost in the region of £16,000 to install a hard surface.

Andy is not very keen on the idea of the Borough Council installing a vehicle activated sign paid for by the Parish Council. His main concerns are as follows:-

- If Darlington Borough Council installs vehicle activated signs in Sadberge (albeit at the Parish Council's expense), this may be seen as setting a precedent and other parish councils representative bodies may subsequently ask to have their own equipment installed on the highway. This could lead to a proliferation of signs.

Darlington Borough Council's Cabinet would need to make a decision on the principle of whether the Borough Council should install signs on behalf of a parish council

- The Parish Council would need to carry out a risk assessment covering the initial installation process and the on-going operation of the equipment. (There is likely to be a desire to move the vehicle activated sign from one location to another every few months. As a comparison, the Borough Council's existing Speed Visors are erected from a vehicle-mounted hydraulic platform.)
- The Parish Council would be liable for any personal injury to the people erecting the equipment.
- The Borough Council would insist on a battery-operated sign to reduce the risks of tampering with connection points, trailing cables and connections to 'live feeds'.

The Clerk will investigate the costs and practicalities of purchasing, installing and maintaining a vehicle activated sign.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

- 7.2 The Clerk will ask Andy Casey for advice on the practicalities of installing a mirror to improve the visibility for drivers emerging from East Close on to Hill House Lane.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 8. Calor Village of the Year competition

After discussion, it was decided not to enter Sadberge for the 2009 Calor Tees Valley Village of the Year competition.

## 9. Parking

- 9.1 Local residents have written to the Council asking for double yellow lines to be painted on the east side of Middleton Road between the bus stop and the Buck Inn.

It was decided that it was not necessary for the Clerk to leave the meeting during discussion of this subject. (The Clerk regularly parks his car between the bus stop and the Buck Inn.)

It was agreed that the Clerk will ask Darlington Borough Council's Traffic Management & Road Safety Officer for advice on whether it would be appropriate to put double yellow lines between the bus stop and the Buck Inn.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

The Clerk will also write to Darlington Borough Council to ask for the parking area adjacent to the phone box to be extended to accommodate more cars.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

The Clerk will write to the residents who had requested the double yellow lines to keep them informed about what the Council is doing in response to their request.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

- 9.2 The issue of parking near the entrance to East Close was not discussed.

## 11. Request for a grant

Councillors Scaife and Schott left the meeting for this item.

11.1 The Council decided to make a donation of £150 to the Sadberge Village Hall Association in connection with the Sadberge Talent Show on Saturday 16-May-2009, and approved the relevant payment.

Councillors Scaife and Schott returned to the meeting.

## 12. Village festival

12.1 Arrangements for the 2009 village festival are in hand.

12.2 The attendance at the craft workshops has been disappointing, but the people who have come along to the sessions have enjoyed them.

12.3 The necessary forms have gone off to the Public Event Safety Advisory Group (PESAG).

12.4 Helpers will be needed on the day of the festival.

## 13. Parish Plan

There was nothing to report on the implementation of the Parish Plan.

## 14. Map of the footpaths around Sadberge

14.1 The Clerk reported that it would cost £110 for a colour print of a 1:10,000 map extract covering an area 5 km x 6 km around Sadberge.

Yvonne Ramage (Countryside Access Officer in Darlington Borough Council) would mark the public rights of way on the map extract, which would then be laminated for mounting somewhere on Sadberge Village Green.

14.2 It was agreed that the Clerk will go ahead and order the map extract.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

14.3 The Clerk will also draft a leaflet showing the footpaths in the area around Sadberge.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 15. Asset Register

The Council considered an Asset Register prepared by the Clerk.

After a number of minor alterations, the Council approved the Asset Register.

## 16. Sadberge Parish Council accounts for the year ending 31-Mar-2009.

16.1 The Council noted the draft accounts for the year ending 31-Mar-2009.

16.2 The Clerk will arrange for the internal audit to be carried out. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 17. Correspondence

The Council noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter from Councillor Nick Wallis about the new waste disposal arrangements.
- Letter from the Equality and Human Rights Commission about parish council's duties under equality legislation.
- Letter from CE Electric UK about enabling people to register for priority treatment during power cuts. The Clerk will order 25 copies of the registration form. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 18. Next meeting

The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held in Sadberge Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2009.

**Alastair Mackenzie**  
Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>th</sup> MAY 2009

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

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