

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 23rd June 2009 in Sadberge Village Hall

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

In attendance: Councillor Brian Jones Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

1. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Glew, and the reason for his absence was approved.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 19th May 2009 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

4. Parking in Norton Crescent

- 4.1 Residents had expressed concerns about parking in Norton Crescent, particularly in the area near St. Andrew's Park.
- 4.2 The Council agreed to allow members of the public to make contributions during the discussion of this item.
- 4.3 The Clerk reported that he had received an email from a St. Andrew's Park resident explaining that (i) he needs to park his car on Norton Crescent because his household has two cars but only one off-road parking space (not counting the garage) in St. Andrew's Park and (ii) he has changed the way that he parks his car in order to provide clear access for Norton Crescent residents' cars.
- 4.4 The following points were made during the discussion.
 - Parking on a pavement is illegal. However, it is often done in villages where there are narrow roads with limited space for parking.
 - The current parking arrangements do not cause problems with access. However, if other people – or visitors to the village – park their cars on the north side of Norton Crescent then there will again be problems.
 - Most of the houses in the eastern half of St. Andrew's Park are still unoccupied. Will there be more parking problems on Norton Crescent when people move in to these houses?
 - One option would be to ban parking on the north side of Norton Crescent. However, double yellow lines would probably cause more problems than they solve.
 - It may be possible to have a residents' parking scheme on Norton Crescent, with parking by permit only. There would presumably be an annual charge for the residents' parking permits.
 - Residents' parking schemes are generally implemented when there is a shortage of parking spaces, so that residents often find it difficult to park near their homes. There is not a shortage of parking spaces on Norton Crescent. When there are problems it is because cars are being parked on both sides of the road rather than in the space further along the road.
- 4.5 The Clerk will ask Andy Casey (Darlington Borough Council's Traffic Management and Road Safety Manager) for advice on the practicalities and costs of implementing a residents' parking scheme on Norton Crescent. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

5. Parking near the entrance to East Close

- 5.1 A local resident had reported that the refuse collection wagon has been unable to get access to East Close on several occasions, and that an ambulance recently had difficulty in getting access.
- 5.2 The Clerk will report this issue to Andy Casey and ask his advice.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

6. Matters arising

- 6.1 Councillor Schott will get a quote for treating the benches in and around Sadberge.
ACTION: Councillor Schott
- 6.2 There has been no further progress with investigating whether it might be possible to use the old public toilet building on the bank at Middleton One Row to provide a storage facility for Sadberge Parish Council and Middleton St. George Parish Council.
- 6.3 The Clerk has written to the resident who had asked the Council to investigate whether it would be possible to provide additional parking spaces in The Orchard.
- 6.4 Darlington Borough Council has confirmed that it does not object to the felling of the three sycamore trees near Tithe House and the pruning of various trees in Sadberge.
The Clerk will ask Phil Haynes to proceed with the work. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 6.5 The Clerk has still to arrange for various items of Council information to be added to the Sadberge web site.
ACTION: A Mackenzie
- 6.6 The Clerk has written to Emma Wilkinson about the Council's concerns about the access to the playing field north of St. Andrew's Park. Emma has moved to another job within Darlington Borough Council, but has passed the letter on to Dave McGaughey, who is now the Planning Officer responsible for this matter.
The condition of the playing field ground is so poor that Darlington Borough Council's Street Scene Team is currently unable to cut the grass. This is going to be raised with Reiver Homes.
- 6.7 The Clerk has still to investigate the possibility of installing a mirror to improve visibility for drivers emerging from East Close on to Hill House Lane.
ACTION: A Mackenzie
- 6.8 There has not yet been any response from Andy Casey to the Parish Council's request for advice on whether it would be sensible to paint double yellow lines on the east side of Middleton Road between the bus stop and the Buck Inn.
- 6.9 There has not yet been any response from Andy Casey to the Parish Council's request to extend the parking adjacent to the phone box beside the village green.
- 6.10 The map extract has arrived, the Clerk has given it to Yvonne Ramage so that she can mark up the public rights of way. It was agreed that the Parish Council will review the options for displaying the map extract during the annual inspection tour, which will take place on 28-Jul-2009.

7. Wind farms near Sadberge

- 7.1 E.ON Climate & Renewables has submitted (to Durham County Council) a planning application to construct a wind farm comprising 10 wind turbines on land adjacent to Howe Hills Farm west of Elstob Lane to the south of Mordon (A1 Wind Farm).

It was agreed that Sadberge Parish Council objects to this planning application on the following grounds:-

- It is not appropriate to site commercial-scale wind turbines amongst the settlements on the Tees Plain.
- The proposed development would be contrary to Policy E3 in the Sedgefield Borough Council Local Plan 1996 – 2006, which states that *"the Council will seek to conserve the historic landscape character of the Bradbury, Mordon and Preston Carrs when approving proposals by ensuring that they do not damage the character or appearance of the area"*.

- There is a risk that noise from the proposed development would cause serious annoyance and harm to residents in the area.
- The proposed wind farm may affect air traffic control radar systems, particularly at Durham Tees Valley Airport.

It was also agreed that this planning application must be considered in the context of other potential planning applications for commercial-scale wind farms on the Tees Plain, including applications that fall outside the area covered by Durham County Council.

The Clerk will communicate this objection to Durham County Council.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

- 7.2 The Clerk reported that, after consultation with the Chair, he had put out a flyer informing Sadberge residents about the planning application for the A1 Wind Farm. The flyer included a message from Great Stainton asking Sadberge residents to oppose the planning application. The Council approved this action.
- 7.3 Councillor Brian Jones, Councillor John Williams and Ada Burns (Chief Executive of Darlington Borough Council), have been invited to a meeting with Banks during the first half of July.
- 7.4 Several of the Sadberge Parish Councillors had a meeting with Phil Wilson MP on Friday 29-May-2009.
- During the meeting, the Clerk explained the phenomenon of aerodynamic modulation in noise from wind farms, and the fact that the noise monitoring regime specified in Government's ETSU-R-97 guidelines is ineffective in protecting local residents from disturbance by aerodynamic modulation. Phil has subsequently written to the relevant minister about this issue.
- Other subjects discussed with Phil included traffic through Sadberge and Darlington Borough Council's negative attitude towards Sadberge Parish Council's suggestion of spending the Calor Village of the Year prize money on vehicle activated 'slow down' signs.
- 7.5 On 10-Jun-2009, Councillor Scaife and the Clerk had a meeting with Roy Merrett (Development Manager), Adrian Hobbs (Planning Officer) and Carol Whelan (Environmental Health Officer) to discuss aerodynamic modulation. The Darlington Borough Council officers received the information with interest.
- 7.6 On 27-May-2009, the Clerk briefed Paul Cook on aerodynamic modulation, and an article subsequently appeared in the Darlington & Stockton Times.
- 7.7 The Clerk has also written to William Hague MP about aerodynamic modulation and the fact that the monitoring specified in ETSU-R-97 is unable to provide protection against this type of noise.
- 7.8 The Parish Council thanked the Clerk for his valuable research into the issue of noise from wind farms.

8. Activity on land adjacent to Hill House Lane to the north of Sadberge

- 8.1 It had been observed that work was being done on land on the east side of Hill House Lane to the north of Sadberge.
- 8.2 Neil Foreman (Planning Enforcement Officer) has spoken to the owner of the land, who says that he intends to let the land as allotments or for keeping horses.
- 8.3 The Clerk will investigate whether planning permission is needed for the erection of walls, fences and gates.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

9. Untidy land on the south side of Stockton Road near Laurel Terrace

- 9.1 The planning permission to construct a house on the land near Laurel Terrace expires on 25-Jul-2009.
- 9.2 Councillor Schott has asked the new owner of the land if it would be possible for local people to use the land – e.g. as allotments – until the owner wishes to build on it.

10. Village festival

- 10.1 The Public Events Safety Advisory Group (PESAG) has given permission for the Sadberge Summer Festival to go ahead.
- 10.2 The Clerk will ask Darlington Borough Council's Street Scene Team to cut the grass on the village green during the week before the festival. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 10.3 There will be an organisation meeting in the Three Tuns at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 30-Jun-2009.

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

- 11.1 The Clerk has still to investigate the practicalities and costs of installing a vehicle activated "30 mph – Slow down" sign. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 11.2 Councillor Brian Jones pointed out that there is a Community Speed Watch scheme that enables residents to work with the police to check traffic speeds and issue warnings to speeding motorists.
Note from the Clerk: According to an article in the Northern Echo, a Community Speed Watch scheme is being introduced in Teesdale and the Wear Valley. Large panels automatically display each vehicle's speed to both the operator and the driver. If a vehicle is travelling at excessive speed then the operator notes its registration number and sends a warning letter to the owner. The Clerk will investigate how the Community Speed Watch scheme works in practice and whether such a scheme could be started in Sadberge. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

12. Implementation of the Sadberge Parish Plan

- 12.1 In the Sadberge Energy Saving Project, the first phase of the electricity monitoring is now complete. The Climate Change Working Group would like to distribute the Eco-eye monitors to Sadberge residents. The plan is to offer the three large monitors to the Village Hall, the Buck Inn and the Three Tuns, to give six of the smaller monitors to Sadberge residents and to retain one of the smaller monitors to lend out to people moving in to the village. As the Eco-eyes belong to the Parish Council, the Council needs to give its permission for this disposal of the monitors.
It was agreed that the Climate Change Working Group can proceed with the disposal of the Eco-eye monitors, provided that residents are asked to pay at least £5 and preferably at least £10 for the units. The reason for requiring a payment is that if something is given away for free then people will often ask for it even if they do not really want it.

13. Darlington Association of Parish Councils and Parish Meetings

- 13.1 Councillor Scaife and the Clerk attended the DAPC meeting held at Darlington Fire Station on Tuesday 16-Jun-2009.
- 13.2 During the meeting, the Clerk gave a presentation on the results of his investigation into noise from wind farms.

Councillor Brian Jones left the meeting.

14. Dog Control Order

- 14.1 Darlington Borough Council is planning to introduce a Dog Control Order for the Borough. This Dog Control Order will cover dog fouling, and it can also specify (a) areas where dogs are not allowed and/or (b) areas where dogs must be kept on a lead.
- 14.2 Once it has been introduced, making changes to the Dog Control Order will be difficult, so it is important to identify all the areas where dogs should be either excluded or kept on leads.
- 14.3 During the discussion, it was suggested that it may be appropriate to exclude dogs from the children's playground off Abbey Road. However, the specification of the exclusion area should take into account the possibility of a future access path to the playground from Stockton Road. As this could form part of a good dog walking route, it would not be a good idea to specify a dog exclusion area that prevented dogs from being taken along this possible new path.
- 14.4 It was agreed to defer a final decision on this issue until the meeting on 28th July 2009.
- 14.5 The Clerk will check the deadline for making comments on the Dog Control Order. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

Note from the Clerk: Comments on the proposed Dog Control Order need to reach Darlington Borough Council by 21st August 2009.

Councillor Brown left the meeting.

15. Planning

15.1 Mr. Fagan has appealed against the refusal of planning permission to erect a residential dwelling at West View Cottage. It was agreed that the Parish Council opposes the appeal 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.

The Clerk will write to the Planning Inspectorate to express the Council's opposition to the appeal.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

15.2 The Council approved the following planning application without comment:-

- 09/00363/CU Change of use of Sadberge Village Hall to a village hall incorporating a community café and shop.

16. Insurance

16.1 The Council approved the renewal of its insurance via the Group Insurance Policy organised by Darlington Borough Council.

16.2 The following payments were approved:-

- | | |
|--|---------|
| • Annual insurance premium | £174.04 |
| • Insurance premium for the Sadberge Summer Festival | £94.50 |

17. Accounts, Internal Audit and Annual Return

17.1 The Council reviewed the internal audit report for the year ended 31-Mar-2009.

The internal audit report did not raise any issues for the Council's attention.

17.2 The Council approved the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2009.

17.3 The Council approved the Statement of Accounts in Section 1 of the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2009.

17.4 The Council approved "Yes" answers to statements 1 - 8 and a "N/A" answer to statement 9 of the Annual Governance Statement in Section 2 the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2009.

18. Payments

The following payments were approved:-

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|---|---------|
| • Map of the area around Sadberge | £110.00 |
| • Refreshments at the Sadberge Parish Meeting | £35.00 |
| • Market licence for the Village Festival | £50.00 |
| • Temporary Event Notice for the Village Festival | £21.00 |
| • Village Festival craft workshops tutor's fee | £315.00 |
| • Village Festival challenge trophy | £30.00 |

19. Correspondence

19.1 The Council noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter from the Sadberge Village Hall Association thanking the Council for its donation in connection with the Sadberge Talent Show.

- Letter from Durham County Council about a consultation on its in-house mental health service.
- A request to publicise County Durham LINK (Local Involvement Network) in the next Parish Council newsletter.
- An invitation for the Clerk to attend the Society of Local Council Clerks' Regional Conference on 9-Jun-2009.
- Invitation to a Village Voices event in Sadberge Village Hall on Thursday 25-Jun-2009.
- Invitation to the Greener Darlington Assembly on Friday 26-Jun-2009.
- Letter from the TVRCC about "Village SOS".
- Notification that the Darlington Neighbourhood Watch Association committee has resigned, but that Neighbourhood Watch activities are continuing.

19.2 It was noted that Alastair Mackenzie will be giving a presentation about the Sadberge Energy Saving Project at the Greener Assembly on 26-Jun-2009.

20. Inspection tour of Sadberge Parish Council land and property

20.1 It was agreed that the annual inspection tour will take place at the start of the meeting on Tuesday 28-Jul-2009.

20.2 The Clerk will invite Carol Carter (Street Scene Team Leader) to accompany Councillors on the inspection tour. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

21. Next meeting

The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday 28th July 2009. The first item on the agenda will be the inspection tour of Parish Council land and property. Meet at the brick bus shelter by the village green. The remainder of the meeting will be held in Sadberge Village Hall.

22. For information

For the last four years, the Parish Council has been paying for meeting room hire in Sadberge Village Hall at a fixed hourly rate irrespective of which room has been used for each meeting. It is not clear whether that arrangement will continue for 2009.

There were significant increases in the village hall room hire charges at the beginning of 2009.

The Clerk will write to the Chair of the Village Hall Association to seek clarification of the charges for room hire for Parish Council meetings. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

Alastair Mackenzie
Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23rd JUNE 2009

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

Signed: Councillor M Scaife _____ Date _____