

# SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the meeting held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2009 in Sadberge Village Hall

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

### 1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

It was noted the Clerk was away on holiday. In his absence the Chair was designated the task of taking the minutes.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

### 3. Wind farms near Sadberge

- 3.1 (a) There were no updates on the planning application for the A1 Wind Farm to report.
  - (b) The meeting between developers and Cllr Brian Jones on the Moor House and East and West Newbiggin was not due to take place until August.
  - (c) There were no further actions of SPAG to report.
- 3.2 The press release issued by Phil Wilson and his letters to David Walker (DCC) and Rt Hon Peter Mandelson were discussed.

The following points were made – Sadberge Parish Council welcomed the support of Phil Wilson in this matter and agreed with him that wind farm proposals in the Tees Valley plain area amounted to an excessive number of turbines (over the recommendations of Arup) when considered collectively. Because of its position, Sadberge would be able to see more turbines than any other single community in the area. This was felt to be detrimental to the rural landscape.

The Parish Council agreed with Phil Wilson's case that applications should be considered collectively, as part of a strategic plan, enabling full consideration of the cumulative impact be taken into account. However, concern was expressed that local issues might be overlooked or diluted as a result and Local Planning Authorities should remain the body to deal with these.

- 3.3 The Clerk, in his absence, had contributed appropriate advice, and it was agreed a response, expressing these discussions and the points he made, should be sent to Phil Wilson.

**ACTION:** Councillor Scaife

### 4. Planning applications

- 4.1 09/00368/LBC – Listed Building consent for the erection of a satellite dish to the front elevation of 4 Chapel Row was approved without comment. **ACTION:** Councillor Scaife
- 4.2 07/00041/OUT – Outline application for development of the Dean and Chapter Land adjoining Morton Park, Darlington, was discussed with regard to the document "Darlington Eastern Corridor Sustainable Transport Study".

It was noted that no plans for mitigation measures in respect of an anticipated increase in traffic as a result of this development were outlined in the study.

It was agreed to object to the application on the following grounds –

1. No assessment has been made to the extent of which the proposed development would result in an increase in traffic through Sadberge and no measures have been agreed to prevent any such additional traffic from causing annoyance and harm to Sadberge residents.
2. Planning Committee members should be made aware of the following – As is the case for other potential development sites along the Eastern Transport Corridor, the proposed

- site has a reasonable road access to the south via the A66 and the A1(M) and to the east via the A66, but its access to the north is very restricted. Neither the Cross Town Route nor the route around the north east side of Darlington can offer good access to the A1(M) for vehicles going to or coming from the north.
3. Sadberge is already used as a "rat run" by drivers attempting to avoid congestion around the north east of Darlington. The proposed development would lead to a further increase in traffic through Sadberge.
  4. The Darlington Eastern Transport Corridor Sustainable Transport Study recognises the need to modify the Little Burdon roundabout to cope with the additional traffic generated by developments along the Eastern Transport Corridor. However, it makes no attempt to assess the impact on traffic volumes through Sadberge. How many of the vehicles leaving the proposed development would turn right at the Little Burdon roundabout and go through Sadberge in preference to turning left and going round the northern edge of Darlington to reach the northbound A1(M)? How many of the vehicles coming to the proposed development from the north would travel through Sadberge and then join the westbound A66 instead of approaching round the northern edge of Darlington?
  5. There are currently no plans to provide a clear northbound route through or round the town to connect to the A1(M).
  6. In the Sadberge Parish Plan questionnaire – which achieved a response rate of more than 75% – residents identified traffic as one of the biggest problems for Sadberge. 71% of respondents described traffic volume as a Significant or Major problem. (The only issue with a higher percentage of respondents describing it as a Significant or Major problem was traffic speed, with 78%.)

No proposal for any significant development along the Eastern Transport Corridor should be given any kind of planning permission until and unless (a) there is a link made to the A1(M) northbound, (b) the transport assessment has been extended to cover traffic through Sadberge, and (c) the relevant developers have proposed suitable mitigation measures to prevent annoyance and harm to Sadberge residents, and (d) the mitigation measures have been agreed and approved by both Darlington Borough Council and Sadberge Parish Council. **ACTION:** Councillor Scaife.

#### 5. Maintenance work on village benches

It was agreed to accept the quotation of £25.00 per bench (total £250 for 8 single benches and 1 double = 10) from M Flood.

This is in respect of maintenance work on the village benches as identified in the Council's annual audit of property 2008.

It was agreed to send a letter of acceptance of the quote with the following conditions – that precautions to protect the benches and the public whilst they are drying should be taken.

**ACTION:** Councillor Scaife

#### 6. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009 at 6.00p.m. on the green for the Annual Inspection, followed by the Parish Council meeting in the village hall.

**Millie Scaife**  
**Chair of Sadberge Parish Council**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> JULY 2009

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

Signed: Councillor S Best \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_