

# SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

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## **Minutes of the meeting held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009, starting with an inspection tour of Parish Council land and property and then in Sadberge Village Hall**

**Present:** Councillor Scaife [Chair]  
Councillors Best, Brown, Glew and Schott  
Councillor Vickers joined the meeting during item 5.

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

### **1. Inspection tour of Sadberge Parish Council land and property**

- 1.1 The inspection was carried out by Councillors Scaife, Best, Brown, Glew, and Schott, accompanied by the Clerk.
- 1.2 See the checklist attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Heywood and Vickers, and the reasons for their absence were approved.

*Note: Councillor Vickers was subsequently able to join the meeting during item 5.*

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

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

### **4. Minutes of the last meeting**

- 4.1 The minutes of the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2009 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.
- 4.2 The minutes of the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2009 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

### **5. Matters arising**

- 5.1 There has been no response from the Highways Department to the Parish Council's request for advice on the practicalities and costs of implementing a residents' parking scheme in Norton Crescent.
- 5.2 There has been no response from the Highways Department about the problems with parking at the entrance to East Close.
- 5.3 Arrangements have been made for the maintenance work to the benches in and around Sadberge.
- 5.4 Middleton St. George Parish Council has decided not to re-open the toilets on the bank at Middleton One Row, so the building will be available for storage purposes. There will be costs of about £100 per year to be shared by Middleton and Sadberge Parish Councils.  
It was agreed to go ahead with the plan to share the new storage facility with Middleton St. George Parish Council.  
The Parish Council thanked Middleton St. George Parish Council for their efforts in arranging for the provision of the storage facility.
- 5.5 The land adjacent to Hill House Lane to the north of Sadberge is now called "The Willows", and the 'To Let' signs have come down.
- 5.6 The grass has been cut on the land on the south side of Stockton Road near Laurel Terrace.  
It was noted that the planning permission to build a house on this land has now expired.  
The Clerk will try to find out who owns the land now. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

- 5.7 The Clerk has still to arrange for various items of Council information to be added to the Sadberge web site. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie Darlington
- 5.8 Borough Council's Building Regulations officers are not happy with the plans to construct a viewing platform for the playing field to the north of St. Andrew's Park.

Councillor Vickers joined the meeting.

- 5.9 There has been no response from the Highways Department to the Clerk's request for advice on the practicalities of installing a mirror to improve visibility for drivers emerging from East Close on to Hill House Lane.
- 5.10 There has been no response from the Highways Department 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.
- 5.11 There has been no response from the Highways Department to the Parish Council's request to extend the parking adjacent to the phone box beside the village green.
- 5.12 There is no news of progress with the map of the footpaths around Sadberge. The Clerk will contact Yvonne Ramage. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- Once the public rights of way have been marked on the map, arrangements will need to be made to display the map on the village green. It will need to be protected from the elements, probably by laminating it and mounting it behind a clear perspex sheet.

## 6. Wind farms near Sadberge

- 6.1 There has been no further news of the proposals to construct wind farms on the Tees Plain to the north east of Darlington.
- 6.2 The CPRE is writing to Ed Miliband on the subject of wind farms in this area.
- 6.3 Phil Wilson telephoned Councillor Scaife to thank Sadberge Parish Council for its response to his press release about wind farms in his Sedgefield constituency.
- 6.4 Councillor Brian Jones reported that, along with Planning Committee members, he had attended a training session on wind farms.

## 7. Development along the Eastern Transport Corridor.

- 7.1 The Council approved the letter that the Clerk had sent to the D&S Times in response to the article 'Council calls for better traffic measures', which appeared on 20-Jul-2009.
- 7.2 The Council reviewed and approved the presentation that the Clerk will make to the Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday 29-Jul-2009.
- The main point is that no planning permission should be given for any significant development along the Eastern Transport Corridor until and unless (a) the transport assessment has been extended to cover traffic through Sadberge, (b) the relevant developers have proposed suitable mitigation measures to prevent annoyance and harm to Sadberge residents, and (c) the mitigation measures have been agreed and approved by both Darlington Borough Council and Sadberge Parish Council.
- The Clerk will represent the Parish Council at the Planning Committee meeting on 29-Jul-2009. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 7.3 It was agreed that the Parish Council is concerned about the apparent deterioration in communications with Darlington Borough Council's Highways Department. The Clerk will try to arrange a meeting with Dave Winstanley to address this issue. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 8. Tree planting and stump grinding in Sadberge

- 8.1 There has been no news of recent progress with the tree planting and stump grinding. The Clerk will contact Phil Haynes to find out when the work is going to be carried out. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

- 8.2 Councillor Scaife has been responding to a local resident's enquiries about why one of the four sycamore trees near Tithe House is being retained when the other three are being removed.

The Clerk will write to Hillhouse Terrace residents to explain the background to the tree works on the section of village green near Tithe House. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

- 8.3 It was agreed that, with hindsight, it would have been better to do more consultation with Sadberge residents about the tree planting schedule.

## 9. Village Festival

- 9.1 The Village Festival was a great success. The weather was good, and there was a good turnout. The festival generated useful income for St. Andrew's Church, the Village Hall and the two village pubs.

- 9.2 It was noted that the organising committee put in a great deal of effort, and a lot of people helped on the day.

- 9.3 It is proposed to hold next year's festival on the second Saturday in July, with the theme 'Carnival Time'.

- 9.4 The festival accounts have still to be finalised, but they will show a surplus. That is, this year's donations towards the costs of the festival have exceeded the festival's net expenditure.

It was not the Parish Council's intention to make a profit from organising the festival. Would it be possible to 'ring fence' the surplus from the 2009 festival to provide funding for next year's festival?

The Clerk will prepare a summary of the options for the financial organisation of the festival in future years. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

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

- 10.1 The Clerk has not yet made any progress with investigating the practicalities and costs of installing a vehicle activated "30 mph – Slow down" sign. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 11. Implementation of the Sadberge Parish Plan

- 11.1 A kerb has been installed around the village garden opposite the Buck Inn. The Clerk will write to thank the local residents who donated both their time and the materials. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

- 11.2 In the distribution of the Eco-eye electricity monitors, the Village Hall and the two pubs will each be offered the opportunity to buy an Eco-eye Elite at a cost of £10.

## 12. Dog Control Order

- 12.1 It was agreed to ask Darlington Borough Council to exclude dogs from the children's play area off Abbey Road. However, the ban should omit a strip of land in the south west corner of the area so that dog walkers can use this as part of a circular walk if Darlington Borough Council creates a new access lane to the play area from Stockton Road.

- 12.2 The Clerk will communicate this request to Darlington Borough Council. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 13. Hedgerows along Stockton Road

- 13.1 Some of the hedges on the north side of Stockton Road are encroaching across the footpath. The Clerk will write to the residents of properties backing on to Stockton Road to ask them to cut the relevant hedges if they have not already done so. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

- 13.2 The Clerk will ask the Street Scene Team to trim the hedge on the south side of Darlington Road (adjacent to Town Farm Field). **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

#### 14. Parish Council land and property

- 14.1 The Clerk will contact Phil Haynes to find out when the tree works will be carried out. (Felling the three sycamore trees near Tithe House. Planting new trees. Pruning various trees on the village green. Dealing with the branch that is growing across the road sign on Hill House Lane.)  
**ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 14.2 One of the young cherry trees has died. The Clerk will ask Phil Haynes if the planting scheme can be adjusted to take this into account.  
**ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 14.3 The Clerk will remove the suckers from the bottoms of trees in several places on the village green.  
**ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 14.4 The Clerk will ask the Street Scene Team to cut the grass on the piece of land below 8 East View.  
**ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 14.5 The Clerk will ask the Street Scene Team to improve the stability of the grit bin on Hill House Lane.  
**ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 14.6 The Clerk will ask the Street Scene Team to paint the bus shelter in front of Mayfield House.  
**ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 14.7 The Clerk will contact the Street Scene Team to investigate what can be done about cutting the grass on the bank on the west side of Middleton Road in front of Richmond Cottages.  
**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

#### 15. Planning

- 15.1 The Council noted the outcome of the following planning application:-
- Granted 09/00363/CU Change of use of Sadberge Village Hall to a village hall incorporating a community café and shop.

Councillor Brian Jones left the meeting.

- 15.2 The Council approved the following planning application without comment:-
- 09/00453/FUL Conversion of existing garage to form dining room, erection of a single storey side extension, installation of decking to the rear and erection of a garage at 20 Norton Crescent.

#### 16. Register of Interests

The Parish Councillors need to review and revise their entries in the Register of Interests. To assist this process, the Clerk will create electronic versions of the entries. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

#### 17. External audit

The Clerk reported that the external audit is due to take place on 31-Jul-2009.

#### 18. Review of expenditure against budget

Consideration of this item was deferred until the next meeting.

#### 19. Risk assessment and risk management

Consideration of this item was deferred until the next meeting.

#### 20. Correspondence

- 20.1 The Council noted the following correspondence:-
- Request for support from Butterwick Hospice
- 20.2 The Council had received a letter from National Energy Action about making community buildings more eco-friendly by installing air source heat pumps. The Clerk will refer National Energy Action to the Village Hall Association.  
**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

**21. Next meeting**

The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held in Sadberge Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

**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 28<sup>th</sup> JULY 2009

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

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