

# SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the meeting held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2009 in Sadberge Village Hall

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

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

### 1. Apologies

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

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

2.1 Councillor Scaife declared an interest in item 17 – Sadberge Summer Festival.

2.2 The Clerk declared an interest in item 9 – Double yellow lines on the east side of Middleton Road.

### 3. Minutes of the last meeting

Councillor Schott was not present during the inspection tour of Parish Council land and property. With this correction, the minutes of the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

### 4. Matters arising

4.1 There has been no further progress on the proposal to turn old toilet at Middleton One Row into a storage facility for Sadberge Parish Council and Middleton St. George Parish Council.

The annual cost is likely to be £300 - £350 per year rather than the previously-reported £100 per year. There will also be an insurance cost.

It may be quite difficult to get the dance floor into the building.

It was agreed to go ahead with the plan to share the new storage facility with Middleton St. George Parish Council.

4.2 The Land Registry has not recorded any change of ownership of the on the south side of Stockton Road near Laurel Terrace.

The Clerk will contact the last known owner of the land to ask permission for Sadberge residents to use the land as a garden. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

4.3 The Clerk has still to arrange for various items of Council information to be added to the Sadberge web site. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

4.4 The Clerk has sent letters of thanks to the residents who installed the kerb around the village garden opposite the Buck Inn.

4.5 Reiver Homes have submitted an application to vary the planning condition requiring the provision of disabled access to the playing field north of St. Andrew's Park. This will be discussed at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

4.6 There is no news of progress with the map of the footpaths around Sadberge. The Clerk will contact Yvonne Ramage. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

4.7 The Clerk has sent out letters to the residents of Abbey Road properties backing on to Stockton Road, and the hedgerows have been cut.

4.8 Darlington Borough Council has issued its proposals on dog control orders, and there will be a Talking Together event on this subject on Wednesday 30-Sep-2009.

## 5. Development along the Eastern Transport Corridor.

- 5.1 At the Planning Committee meeting on 29-Jul-2009 the Clerk and Councillor Brian Jones presented objections to the proposed developments along the Eastern Transport Corridor.
- 5.2 The Borough Engineer told the Planning Committee that the proposed developments would generate only a small number of additional journeys through Sadberge.
- 5.3 Darlington Borough Council's Assistant Director for Regeneration, John Anderson, promised to look into the possibility of installing additional traffic calming measures for Sadberge. [See item 6 below.]
- 5.4 The Planning Committee granted outline planning permission for the proposed developments on the Dean & Chapter Land and at Lingfield Point.

*Note from the Clerk: Strictly speaking, the Planning Committee resolved that it was 'minded to grant permission' for the proposed developments subject to certain conditions.*

## 6. Traffic calming

- 6.1 At the Planning Committee meeting on 29-Jul-2009, John Anderson promised to look into the possibility of installing additional traffic calming measures for Sadberge. After the meeting, the Clerk sent John Anderson an overview of the background to the problems with traffic volume and speed in Sadberge, plus a summary of Sadberge Parish Council's various requests to Darlington Borough Council's Highways Department. In a letter dated 26-Aug-2009 Dave Winstanley provided responses to the various issues. [See also items 7 - 12 below.]
- 6.2 Dave Winstanley's advice is that traffic calming would not be effective in reducing the volume of traffic through Sadberge, since the small delays caused by traffic calming would not be enough to persuade motorists to choose to go by an alternative route.
- 6.3 From Darlington Borough Council's point of view, Sadberge is not a priority for traffic calming to deal with speed. The Borough Council seeks to intervene in locations where there are clusters of accidents. There are very few accidents in Sadberge, and the Borough Council is concentrating its resources on resolving issues at locations where there are frequent accidents.
- 6.4 Speed Visor data does not indicate a significant problem with speed in Sadberge, although the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed on Norton Road entering the village was recorded as 37 mph, which justifies further investigation.
- 6.5 During the discussion, it was pointed out that:-
  - Physical traffic calming measures are being removed from Middleton St. George.
  - The speed data from Hill House Lane needs to be re-checked.
  - A police speed trap on Middleton Road appeared to catch a significant number of vehicles travelling too fast down the hill out of the village.
- 6.6 The Clerk will write to Dave Winstanley expressing the Parish Council's continuing concerns about speed in Sadberge and asking the Borough Council to carry out further speed surveys.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 7. Parking in Norton Crescent

- 7.1 Dave Winstanley's advice is that it would not be appropriate to implement a residents' parking scheme in Norton Crescent.
- 7.2 The Parish Council accepted this advice.

## 8. Parking near the entrance to East Close

- 8.1 Highways Department staff have visited East Close on two occasions to investigate the problem of cars being parked in a way that obstructs access for large vehicles, but have not yet observed the problem.
- 8.2 The Clerk will send Dave Winstanley some photographs showing how vehicles park in East Close.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## **9. Double yellow lines on the east side of Middleton Road**

- 9.1 The view of Darlington Borough Council and Durham Police is that the vehicle parked on the east side of Middleton Road between the bus stop and the Buck Inn does not cause a safety hazard, although it does at times break up the flow of traffic. The Borough Council therefore does not propose to install yellow lines at this location.
- 9.2 The Parish Council noted this information.

## **10. Extension of the parking lay-by beside the telephone box on the village green**

- 10.1 Dave Winstanley's view is that there is little scope for the expansion of the lay-by, as this would take it too close to the junction.
- 10.2 It was pointed out that the road past the telephone box used to take two-way traffic, and that the pavement kerb could simply be returned to its original position. The Clerk will write to Dave Winstanley making this suggestion. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## **11. Mirror(s) at the entrance to East Close**

Dave Winstanley pointed out that the erection of traffic mirrors requires specific authorisation from the Department of Transport, and that such authorisation would be unlikely to be given for the junction of East Close and Hill House Lane.

## **12. Communication with Darlington Borough Council's Highways Department**

- 12.1 The Clerk had sent an email to Dave Winstanley expressing concern about the communication between Sadberge Parish Council and the Highways Department. In his letter of 26-Aug-2009, Dave Winstanley suggested organising a meeting between himself, John Anderson and representatives of Sadberge Parish Council.
- 12.2 It was agreed to invite Dave Winstanley and John Anderson to a future meeting of the Parish Council. If this is not practical then the Clerk will arrange a meeting involving Councillor Scaife, Ward Councillor Brian Jones and himself. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## **13. Wind farms near Sadberge**

- 13.1 There has been no further news about the planning application for the proposed A1 Wind Farm.
- 13.2 There has been no further news about the proposals to construct wind farms at East and West Newbiggin.
- 13.3 Banks Developments has finalised the design of its proposed Moor House Wind Farm and is holding a public exhibition in Sadberge Village Hall on Monday 14-Sep-2009.  
It was agreed to send out a flyer encouraging Sadberge residents to attend the public exhibition and make their views known. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 13.4 There was a SPAG meeting in Sadberge Village Hall on Thursday 3-Sep-2009.
- 13.5 SPAG is going to send out a flyer about the Moor House public exhibition. This flyer will go to the other local villages, but not to Sadberge.
- 13.6 The next SPAG meeting will be held in Sadberge Village Hall at 7 p.m. on Monday 5-Oct-2009.
- 13.7 The Parish Council agreed to pay the room hire charges for SPAG meetings in Sadberge Village Hall.

## **14. Road name signs**

- 14.1 The Clerk will ask Darlington Borough Council to install an 'East Close' sign near Pleasant View. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 14.2 The Clerk will ask Darlington Borough Council to move the 'Beacon Hill' sign to east end of Beacon Hill and to correct the postcode on the sign. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## **15. Issues arising from the inspection tour of Sadberge Parish Council land and property**

- 15.1 There was no news of the work to maintain the benches in and around Sadberge.

- 15.2 The hedge on the south side of Darlington Road has been cut.
- 15.3 The Clerk has still to remove the suckers from the bottoms of trees in several places on the village green. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 15.4 Darlington Borough Council's Street Scene Team have been asked to cut the grass on the piece of land below 8 East View. Carol Carter, the Street Scene Team Leader, is checking who owns the land.
- 15.5 Councillor Schott has been clearing the bank on the west side of Middleton Road in front of Richmond Cottages, with a view to creating another village garden.  
The Parish Council agreed to budget £60 for plants and bulbs for this new village garden.  
Carol Carter has agreed that the Street Scene Team will cut the grass on the section of bank to the south of the steps once it has been cleared up. It was pointed out that this section of bank used to be strimmed, so why is any clearing up necessary? The Clerk will contact Carol Carter to find out what needs to be done. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 15.6 The grit bin on the east side of Hill House Lane is not on any kind of stable foundation. Carol Carter is taking the necessary action.
- 15.7 The bus shelter in front of Mayfield House is looking rather shabby. Darlington Borough Council has been asked to smarten it up.

## 16. Tree planting and stump grinding in Sadberge

- 16.1 There has been no news of recent progress with the tree planting and stump grinding.
- 16.2 Phil Haynes has agreed to replace the dead cherry tree on the section of village green on the west side of Middleton Road.
- 16.3 The Council noted an exchange of correspondence between the Clerk and a local resident about the sycamore trees on the village green near Tithe House. The local resident has been advised to contact Phil Haynes directly if he needs any further information about the reasons why one of the sycamore trees is being retained.

## 17. Sadberge Summer Festival

- 17.1 Next year's Sadberge Summer Festival will be held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2010.
- 17.2 The Council approved the accounts of the 2009 Sadberge Summer Festival.
  - The net cost of the festival was £485.74.
  - Donations towards the costs of the festival amounted to £770.00.
  - Therefore, the donations were £284.26 more than the net costs.
- 17.3 The Responsible Financial Officer advised that it would not be appropriate to take the surplus donations into the Council's general funds.  
The Council agreed to put £285.00 into a separate account for the purpose of funding future Village Festivals. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 17.4 It was noted that early reports suggested that the 2009 festival had made a surplus of over £900. However, this included some money that should have been set against festival expenses that had been paid by cheque from the Parish Council's bank account.
- 17.5 The Responsible Financial Officer outlined the options for organising future Village Festivals.

(a) At present, the Village Festival is a Parish Council event. This means that donations towards the costs of the festival are made to the Council and the Council bears the costs of the festival. In 2007 the Council's net expenditure on the festival was £515. In 2008 the Council's net expenditure was £500. In 2009 the donations exceeded the net costs of the festival.

Advantages:-

  - The Council effectively underwrites the costs of the festival.
  - The Council can reclaim VAT on its expenditure.
  - It may be cheaper for the Council to obtain event insurance.

- There is no need to have a separate organisation, constitution, bank account, etc.

Disadvantages:-

- The Council is not allowed to build up financial reserves. The Practitioner's Guide to Governance and Accountability for Local Councils states *that "councils have no legal powers to hold revenue reserves other than those for reasonable working capital needs or for specifically earmarked purposes"*. The Responsible Financial Officer's opinion is that this means that it is not possible to carry forward any significant reserves for future village festivals.

- (b) The Village Festivals could be run by a separate organisation, which could apply to the Parish Council for grants towards the costs of the festivals.

Advantages:-

- The Village Festival organisation could build up a financial reserve to support future events.
- It would be clearer to contributors that donations towards the Village Festival would only be used for village festivals.

Disadvantages:-

- A new organisation would need to be set up, with its own constitution, committee and bank account.
- The Parish Council would not automatically cover the costs of village festivals, although the Village Festival organisation could apply to the Council for an additional grant if necessary.

17.6 Alastair Mackenzie offered to act as Treasurer for a Village Festival organisation if one is set up.

#### **18. Darlington Association of Parish Councils (DAPC)**

The Council noted that the next DAPC meeting will take place on Tuesday 22-Sep-2009.

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

There was nothing new to report.

#### **20. Implementation of the Sadberge Parish Plan**

There was nothing new to report.

#### **21. Planning**

The Council noted the outcome of the following planning applications:-

- Refused 09/00368/LBC Installation of a satellite dish on the front of 4 Chapel Row.
- Granted 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.

#### **22. Review of expenditure against budget**

Discussion of this item was deferred until the next meeting.

#### **23. Payments**

The Council approved the following payments:-

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| • Printing for the Sadberge Summer Festival                                  | £47.00 |
| • Room hire for the Sadberge Summer Festival craft workshops                 | £63.00 |
| • Printing the flyers about development along the Eastern Transport Corridor | £20.70 |

#### **24. Correspondence**

The Council noted the following correspondence:-

- R Information about an 'Expert Patient Programme" being run by County Durham and Darlington Community Health Services.
- Invitation to nominate members of the North East Rural Affairs Forum.
- A copy of the Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan.

**25. Next meeting**

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

**Alastair Mackenzie**  
**Clerk**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009

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

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