

# SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

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

### 1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

### 3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2009 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

### 4. Matters arising

4.1 Middleton St. George Parish Council is progressing with the arrangements to turn old toilet at Middleton One Row into a shared storage facility.

4.2 The Parish Council noted that the owner of the land on the south side of Stockton Road near Laurel Terrace does not intend to develop it for at least two to three years, and has given permission for local residents to cultivate it in the meantime.

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 Yvonne Ramage is very busy at present, but hopes to be able to mark up the map of the footpaths around Sadberge within the next month or so.

4.5 There was no further news of Darlington Borough Council's proposed dog control orders.

4.6 The Clerk has still to ask Darlington Borough Council to install an "East Close" sign near Pleasant View and to move the "Beacon Hill" sign to the east end of Beacon Hill.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

### 5. Development along the Eastern Transport Corridor.

5.1 Traffic calming will be discussed with John Anderson and Dave Winstanley of Darlington Borough Council. See item 5.5 below.

5.2 There have continued to be problems with vehicles parking in a way that obstructs access to East Close.

At about 5:45 p.m. on 5-Oct-2009 a resident was unable to get her car into East Close. The police were informed.

On several occasions refuse has not been collected from East Close because the wagon has been unable to get access.

Residents are concerned that ambulances and fire engines may be unable to get into East Close at times of need.

Darlington Borough Council officers have made two visits to East Close to check the situation, but there was no problem at the times of their visits. Ward Councillor Brian Jones has also visited East Close twice, and has contacted PC Chris Horner about the problems.

This issue will be raised with Dave Winstanley.

**ACTION:** Councillor Scaife /  
A Mackenzie

5.3 The request for an extension of the lay-by beside the telephone box on the village green will be discussed with Dave Winstanley. **ACTION:** Councillor Scaife / A Mackenzie

5.4 A local resident has put forward a suggestion about using the grassed area in The Orchard to provide additional parking. A key point is that this would also provide vehicular access to four of the houses in The Orchard. Some of the residents would like to be able to have parking areas in their front gardens, and have indicated that they would be willing to make a financial contribution towards the costs of providing access.

It was agreed that the Parish Council has no objection to the suggested changes and will ask Darlington Borough Council to consider the proposal. **ACTION:** Councillor Scaife / A Mackenzie

5.5 Councillor Scaife, Councillor Best, Ward Councillor Brian Jones and the Clerk will have a meeting with John Anderson (Assistant Director for Regeneration) and Dave Winstanley (Assistant Director, Highways and Engineering) on the afternoon of 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

## 6. Projects for young people in Sadberge

6.1 Two eight-year-olds have expressed an interest in being councillors. Councillor Scaife has arranged for a number of young people to go on a Treasure Hunt in the Town Hall Council Chambers on Thursday 29-Oct-2009.

As part of 'Make a Difference Day', on Wednesday 28-Oct-2009 Sadberge children will make small gifts for elderly residents. Funding is being provided by the Buck Inn Racing Club.

The Youth Bus is visiting Sadberge on Wednesday 28-Oct-2009.

6.2 A local resident suggested that it would be useful to ask Sadberge teenagers what could be done to make living in Sadberge better for them. One opportunity for contacting them would be at the bus in the morning.

The following points were made during the discussion:-

- It might be useful to arrange transport to take Sadberge teenagers to activities in Middleton St. George.
- Sadberge teenagers were invited to the Middleton St. George Youth Club, which is open on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.
- It might be possible to arrange a 'Sadberge evening' at the Middleton St. George Youth Club.
- Some teenagers would be interested in fitness classes. One issue is that most fitness classes are not insured for people under eighteen.
- Would a Sadberge identity in Facebook be one way of communicating with local teenagers?

## 7. TVRCC film

7.1 Councillor Scaife reported that the Tees Valley Rural Community Council (TVRCC) has been making a film to celebrate its tenth anniversary, and that Sadberge is featured as one of the communities that has benefited from the TVRCC's help.

It was suggested that the film could be made available on the Sadberge web site in due course.

7.2 The Council noted that Calor are no longer running the Village of the Year competition, but are instead funding sustainable energy projects.

## 8. Planning

8.1 The Parish Council considered planning application 09/00586/FUL, which is for the variation of the planning condition requiring provision of disabled access to the playing field north of St. Andrew's Park.

After discussion, the Council decided to object to planning application 09/00586/FUL for the following reasons:-

- Provision of disabled access to the playing field is very important. A viewing platform is not an acceptable substitute.
- Disabled people should be able to access the playing field. They should not be restricted to a 'viewing platform'.
- If the developers believed that they could not provide the required access under the approved plans then they should have addressed this issue at a much earlier stage and, if necessary, modified the plans for St. Andrew's Park. It is unacceptable for the developers to come back at the very end of their project and say that they cannot fulfil a planning condition that was specified at the time when planning permission was granted.

The Council also made the following comments:-

- It would be useful for representatives of the developers, Darlington Borough Council and Sadberge Parish Council to have a site visit to discuss practical options for providing disabled access to the playing field.
- Options may include the following:- (i) Providing a new access to the playing field, possibly along the north-east edge of St. Andrew's Park. (ii) Providing an elevator. (iii) Constructing a path between the mature trees along the south-east edge of the playing field.
- The developers have gone ahead and started to construct a viewing platform. In its current condition this viewing platform does not meet disabled regulations and is not safe for use.

The Clerk will communicate the Council's objection and comments to the relevant Planning Officer.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

It was agreed that a representative of the Parish Council should go to the relevant Planning Committee meeting. The Clerk will check the date of the meeting.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

- 8.2 The Council noted that the appeal against refusal of planning permission for the erection of a residential dwelling in the garden of West View Cottage has been dismissed.

## 9. Wind farms near Sadberge

- 9.1 There has been no further news about the planning application for the proposed A1 Wind Farm.
- 9.2 There has been no further definite news about the proposals to construct wind farms at East and West Newbiggin, although it has been suggested that the developer has decided not to go ahead with the proposed West Newbiggin Wind Farm and that the proposals for the East Newbiggin Wind Farm are being scaled down.
- 9.3 Banks Developments has not yet submitted a planning application for its proposed Moor House Wind Farm. It is understood that Banks intends to submit the planning application during October.

It was agreed that once the planning application has been submitted the Parish Council will send out a flyer to Sadberge residents and will invite residents to attend an open session at a Parish Council meeting to discuss the community's response to the application. If it is agreed at that meeting, the Parish Council will then send out another flyer asking residents to object to the planning application.

- 9.4 Some people have suggested that there appear to be features missing from the montage showing how the proposed wind farm would look from Sadberge Village Hall.
- 9.5 Banks Developments has invited representatives of Sadberge Parish Council to meet Banks and their noise consultant to discuss options for dealing with the issue of aerodynamic modulation. It was decided to accept this invitation. The Council's representatives will include Councillor Scaife and the Clerk. Other Councillors will attend the meeting if they are available.

The Clerk will contact Banks Developments to make the arrangements for the meeting.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

- 9.6 Arup has issued the first draft of the Addendum to its Landscape Capacity Studies.

- 9.7 There was a SPAG meeting in Sadberge Village Hall on Monday 5-Oct-2009. SPAG will support objections against the proposed A1 Wind Farm and the proposed Foxton Wind Farm if it is asked to do so.

#### **10. Portable cabin at Cherry Tree Farm**

It was reported that someone appears to be living in a second portable cabin at Cherry Tree Farm. The Clerk will inform the relevant Planning Officer in Darlington Borough Council.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

Ward Councillor Brian Jones left the meeting.

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

- 11.1 There was no news of the work to maintain the benches in and around Sadberge.
- 11.2 The Clerk has removed the suckers from the bottoms of trees in several places on the village green.
- 11.3 There was no news about cutting the grass on the piece of land below 8 East View. The Street Scene Team was checking who owns the land.
- 11.4 Councillor Schott has created another village garden on the bank on the west side of Middleton Road in front of Richmond Cottages. The Parish Council thanked Councillor Schott for his work. The Street Scene Team has cut the grass on the section of bank to the south of the steps once it has been cleared up.
- 11.5 There was no news about the replacement of the grit bin on the east side of Hill House Lane
- 11.6 There was no news of progress with smartening up the bus shelter in front of Mayfield House.

#### **12. Tree works in Sadberge**

- 12.1 There has been no news of progress with the tree planting and stump grinding. The Clerk will contact Phil Haynes to find out what is happening.
- ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 12.2 A local resident has raised concerns about the trees on the south side of Darlington Road opposite Berry Court. These trees are interfering with a street light and telephone wires, and the resident is concerned that they may at some time become unstable and fall on one of the nearby properties.
- Ward Councillor Brian Jones has asked Phil Haynes to look into this issue, but Phil has said that the trees are on land that does not belong to Darlington Borough Council
- The Clerk will contact Phil Haynes to try to get the issue dealt with.
- ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 12.3 It was reported that there is also an issue with the trees at Stainton View.

#### **13. Sadberge Summer Festival**

Discussion of the arrangements for next year's festival was deferred until a future meeting.

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

A DAPC meeting was held on 22-Sep-2009. At that meeting, Roy Merrett gave a presentation on enforcement of planning regulations.

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

There was nothing new to report.

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

As mentioned in item 11.4 above, a new village garden has been created on the bank on the west side of Middleton Road in front of Richmond Cottages.

## 17. Register of Interests

17.1 The Clerk informed Councillors that Luke Swinhoe, Darlington Borough Council's Deputy Monitoring Officer, had sent a letter reminding Parish Councillors that they need to review their entries in the Register of Interests periodically, and asking them to complete updated Register of Interests forms.

In order to assist with this process, the Clerk had created an electronic copy of the Parish Council's Register of Interests.

17.2 Those Councillors present completed and signed their Register of Interests forms.

17.3 The Clerk will ask Councillor Brown to complete and sign his Register of Interests form.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie /  
Councillor Brown

## 18. External audit

18.1 The Clerk reported that the External Auditor has passed the Council's Annual Return for 2008-09 without raising any exceptions or making any comments for the Council's attention.

18.2 The Council accepted and approved the audited Annual Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009.

## 19. Budget for 2010-11

Discussion of this item was deferred until the next meeting.

The Clerk gave Councillors copies of (i) a financial forecast for the remainder of the current financial year and (ii) an initial draft budget for 2010-11.

## 20. Christmas tree

It was agreed to put up a Christmas tree on the village green.

Councillor Best will order a 20' tree.

**ACTION:** Councillor Best

## 21. Payments

The Council approved the following payments:-

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| • Plants for the village garden on the bank in front of Richmond Cottages | £52.27  |
| • External audit fee  | £138.00 |

## 22. Next meeting

The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held in Sadberge Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009.

**Alastair Mackenzie**  
Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2009

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

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