

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 3rd November 2009 in Sadberge Village Hall

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

In attendance: Councillor Brian Jones Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

1. Apologies

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

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 6th October 2009 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

4.1 The arrangements to turn old toilet at Middleton One Row into a shared storage facility are progressing.

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

4.3 Yvonne Ramage has started to mark up the map of the footpaths around Sadberge.

4.4 Darlington Borough Council has agreed to move the "Beacon Hill" sign to the east end of Beacon Hill. However, the Borough Council does not propose to install a new sign at Pleasant View because (i) the East Close and Goodwood Close signs can be seen from Hill House Lane and (ii) it would not be appropriate to put a (large) road sign on or in front of a private property.

4.5 On Wednesday 28-Oct-2009, ten Sadberge children took part in a "Make a Difference" day, delivering 76 bunches of flowers to Sadberge residents. The Buck Inn Racing Club provided funding.

No teenagers came along when the Youth Service www.bus came to Sadberge on Wednesday 28-Oct-2009.

On Thursday 29-Oct-2009 eight Sadberge children aged 7 - 10 attended a talk and a treasure hunt in Darlington Town Hall. They were a credit to the village.

Councillor Scaife, Ward Councillor Brian Jones and Darlington Borough Council's Democratic Services team are investigating the possibility of setting up a Youth Council for Sadberge.

4.6 Darlington Borough Council's Planning Committee has still to consider the application to vary the planning condition requiring provision of disabled access to the playing field north of St. Andrew's Park.

Councillors Heywood and Schott believe that it would be possible to install a suitable ramp without cutting down any trees. Councillor Schott will contact the relevant Planning Officer (Dave McGaughey) to discuss this. **ACTION:** Councillor Schott

4.7 Dave McGaughey visited Cherry Tree Farm in the last week of October. It looks as if the new portable cabin is being used as a kitchen rather than as separate accommodation. Dave is continuing to monitor the situation.

4.8 There will be a Sadberge Festival Committee meeting in the Three Tuns at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 17-Nov-2009. The financial arrangements for future festivals will be discussed at that meeting.

4.9 Phil Haynes hopes that the tree works in Sadberge – including felling the three sycamore trees on the village green in front of Tithe House – will be carried out within the next two weeks.

4.10 There was no further news about the issue of the trees on the south side of Darlington Road opposite Berry Court. The Clerk will contact Phil Haynes about this.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

4.11 The Christmas tree will be put up on the village green during the first week of December. The Clerk will arrange for the electricity supply to be made live.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

5. Darlington Association of Parish Councils (DAPC)

It was agreed that if the annual meeting between DAPC and Darlington Borough Council goes ahead then Sadberge Parish Council will ask for the following items to be put on the agenda:-

- Wind farms on the Tees Plain to the north-east of Darlington.
- Sadberge's bid to participate in the Government's Low Carbon Communities Challenge.
- Traffic, particularly in the light of proposals for major developments along the Eastern Transport Corridor.

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

6.1 The Clerk reported on progress with investigating the possibility of buying a vehicle-activated "30 mph – Slow down" sign.

- It is possible to buy a light-weight, battery-operated sign that is designed to be mounted on lamp posts.
- The Clerk has identified a number of suitable lamp posts.
- Darlington Borough Council is concerned about delegating the right for someone other than Borough Council staff to work on the highway.
- The Borough Council also concerned about the costs of annual checks to ensure that the lamp posts are able to bear the (20 kg) weight of the signs.
- The Clerk would change the battery as required (about every 5 days) and would move the sign from location to location every few weeks. A risk assessment would need to be done. There is a question about whether the Clerk would need to receive formal, certificated training in manual handling, working at a height, etc.

6.2 Darlington Borough Council's Speed Visors are not in use at the moment, because of lack of funds to pay for them to be moved from location to location. Ward Councillor Brian Jones is investigating whether the Fire Service could deploy the Speed Visors.

6.3 Ward Councillor Brian Jones described the Community Speed Watch scheme, in which volunteers – accompanied by a police officer or police community support officer (PCSO) – use a portable speed monitoring device to identify vehicles exceeding the speed limit. Warning letters are then sent to the owners of those vehicles.

A Community Speed Watch scheme operated successfully on the A68 at Toft Hill.

Darlington Borough Council has ordered two of the portable speed monitoring devices.

6.4 A Community Speed Watch scheme can only be set up once this has been agreed at a Partners and Community Together (PACT) meeting. Ward Councillor Brian Jones will organise a PACT meeting for Sadberge.

ACTION: Councillor Brian Jones

6.5 It was agreed to defer further discussion of this subject until after the PACT meeting has been held.

7. Wind farms near Sadberge

7.1 There has been no further news about the planning application for the proposed A1 Wind Farm.

7.2 There has been no official news about the proposed East Newbiggin wind farm, although it is understood that the latest layout diagram submitted to Darlington Borough Council for comment only includes three wind turbines.

- 7.3 On 21-Oct-2009 Banks Developments submitted a planning application for its proposed Moor House Wind Farm.

It was agreed that the timetable for responding to this planning application will be as follows:-

ASAP	Relevant information on the Sadberge web site and in the village hall. ACTION: A Mackenzie
By 10-Nov-2009	Flyer to all Sadberge homes informing people that the application is in and inviting people to an open session at the Parish Council meeting on 1-Dec-2009. ACTION: A Mackenzie
1-Dec-2009	Parish Council meeting, including an open session on the Moor House Wind Farm. The Parish Council agrees comments on the planning application.
2-Dec-2009	The Clerk submits the Parish Council's comments to Darlington Borough Council.

Also, if agreed by the Parish Council on 1-Dec-2009

By 4-Dec-2009 Flyer to all Sadberge homes asking residents to submit comments / objections.

14-Dec-2009 The Clerk delivers Sadberge residents' comments / objections to Adrian Hobbs.

- 7.4 The Clerk presented a discussion document on "Dealing with Aerodynamic Modulation", which will be used as the basis for discussion with Banks Developments at the meeting at 3:30 p.m. on Monday 9-Nov-2009. The Parish Council approved this document.

- 7.5 SPAG has as asked people to sign an on-line petition about the Government's out-of-date guidelines (ETSU-R-97) on assessing and monitoring the noise from wind farms.

Note from the Clerk: The on-line petition can be accessed via <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/ETSU-R97Failings>.

- 7.6 The Parish Council noted the Addendum to the Arup report on "Landscape Capacity Studies".

Ward Councillor Brian Jones left the meeting.

8. Budget for 2010-11

- 8.1 The forecast of expenditure for the period October 2009 - March 2010 (attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes) was approved.
- 8.2 After discussion, the budget for 2010 - 11 attached as Appendix 2 to these minutes was approved.
- 8.3 In line with the agreed budget, the precept for 2010 - 11 will be £1,500.
The Clerk will inform Darlington Borough Council. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

9. Meetings with John Anderson and Dave Winstanley

- 9.1 Councillor Scaife and the Clerk had a meeting with John Anderson and Dave Winstanley on Thursday 15-Oct-2009, and a meeting with Dave Winstanley and Louise Neale on Monday 2-Nov-2009. The meetings were very positive.
- 9.2 On the subject of the additional traffic likely to be generated by the proposed developments along the Eastern Transport Corridor, Dave Winstanley is going to ask Harry Alderton to provide information about how the numbers of additional journeys through Sadberge were calculated.
- 9.3 Dave Winstanley is going to arrange for another traffic speed survey to be carried out on Hill House Lane.
- 9.4 Dave Winstanley's advice is that, overall, it would not be helpful to impose parking restrictions (e.g. yellow lines) in East Close as a way of addressing the problems with parking and access. This issue will be included on the agenda for the PACT meeting being organised by Ward Councillor Brian Jones.
The resident of 1 East Close has agreed to take down the wall at the front of his property so that he can park a car on his drive.

- 9.5 Dave Winstanley thinks that it might be difficult for most of the residents of The Orchard to park cars in their front gardens, and that if this was possible it would involve extra expense due to the need to strengthen the footpath. However, Darlington Borough Council is going to investigate the possibility of using the grassed area in The Orchard to provide additional parking spaces and vehicular access to properties.
- 9.6 Darlington Borough Council is going to investigate the possibility of extending the lay-by beside the telephone box beside Sadberge village green, although Dave Winstanley does not think that there will be much scope for providing extra parking space at this location.

10. Low Carbon Communities Challenge

- 10.1 The Climate Change Working Group would like Sadberge to bid to participate in the Government's Low Carbon Communities Challenge. If the bid is successful, Sadberge will receive financial support of up to £500,000 for carbon reduction measures.
- 10.2 The Parish Council agreed to support a bid for Sadberge to participate in the Low Carbon Communities Challenge, and to provide pay for printing flyers and room hire for an Open Meeting to discuss the bid.

11. Northumbria in Bloom competition

The Parish Council approved the Clerk's action in entering Sadberge for the 2010 Northumbria in Bloom competition and approved payment of the £25.00 entry fee.

12. Issues arising from the inspection tour of Sadberge Parish Council land and property

- 12.1 The maintenance work on the benches will be carried out in the Spring once the weather improves.
- 12.2 There was no further news about the grass cutting on the piece of land below 8 East View. Darlington Borough Council was checking who owns the land.
- 12.3 The grass had been cut on the bank in front of Richmond Cottages.
- 12.4 A new stand has been installed for the grit bin on Hill House Lane, but as yet there is no grit bin on the stand.
- 12.5 Painting the bus shelter in front of Mayfield House is on the Borough Council's work plan and should be done during November.

13. Next meeting

The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held in Sadberge Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 1st December 2009.

Alastair Mackenzie
Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3rd NOVEMBER 2009

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

Signed: Councillor M Scaife _____ Date _____