

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 12th January 2010 in Sadberge Village Hall

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

In attendance: Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

1. Apologies

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

Apologies were also received from Ward Councillor Brian Jones.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Councillor Glew declared an interest in item 5 – Traffic on Chapel Row.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 1st December 2009 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

4.1 There has been no progress on the storage facility on the bank at Middleton-One-Row because of the inclement weather.

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 There was no news of Yvonne Ramage's progress on marking up the map of the footpaths around Sadberge.

4.4 A new road name sign has been installed at Beacon Hill.

4.5 There was no further news about the playing field north of St. Andrew's Park.

4.6 Phil Haynes, Darlington Borough Council's Senior Arboricultural Officer, visited Sadberge on Wednesday 6-Jan-2010 to discuss the exact positions for the three new trees that are to be planted on the section of village green near Tithe House. The Clerk had sent out a letter informing nearby residents about Phil's visit and inviting them to come and take part in the discussion. One resident did so.

The proposed positions for the three trees have been marked (using short sections of dowel rod with red tape streamers), and the Clerk has taken a photograph with people standing in the three locations.

The monkey puzzle tree was stolen from the Borough Council's yard, so the third tree will now be a Ginkgo.

On a separate subject, Phil Haynes is going to check that the necessary pruning work is carried out on the trees on the eastern edge of the Stainton View.

4.7 There was no further news about the parking issues in East Close.

4.8 Representatives from Sadberge will be invited to attend the inaugural meeting for the 2010 Northumbria in Bloom competition. The meeting will take place during March.

Note from the Clerk: The meeting will take place in Wynyard Hall at 10 a.m. on Monday 8-Mar-2010.

Brian Graham, Head of Street Scene, has offered assistance to any Parish entering the Northumbria in Bloom competition.

5. Traffic on Chapel Row

5.1 Councillor Glew reported on a number of problems on Chapel Row.

- Residents of the Goodwood Close houses facing on to Chapel Row have been parking their cars on Chapel Row rather than in the parking area and garages at the backs of their houses. This restricts access down Chapel Row.
- Additional traffic on Chapel Row has been causing more noise, which is particularly noticeable because the properties face directly on to the roadway.
- Several vehicles coming down Chapel Row in snowy conditions have hit the (privately-owned) wall at the bottom.

5.2 The following points were made during the discussion.

- Chapel Row is not suitable for through traffic, but only for access to the properties facing on to it.
- It is a private road, so any additional repairs required as a result of increased use would need to be funded by the residents.
- Is there a public right of way along Chapel Row?

5.3 It was agreed that the Clerk will write to the residents of Chapel Row (including the Goodwood Close houses facing on to Chapel Row) informing them that these issues are likely to be raised at the PACT meeting on Tuesday 9-Feb-2010.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

6. Darlington Local Development Framework

6.1 Two aspects of the Local Development Framework were discussed at a special meeting of the Darlington Association of Parish Councils (DAPC) on Wednesday 6-Jan-2010.

6.2 Darlington Borough Council has issued a Draft Revised Statement of Community Involvement.

The most notable change is that the Borough Council will offer developers the opportunity to present their proposals at a structured meeting involving Planning Committee members, Borough Councillors and other consultees (including parish councils) at an early stage in the preparation of a proposal.

At present, developers can have technical discussions with Planning Officers, but political and community concerns often only come up at the Planning Committee meeting, when it is too late for the developer to modify their proposals.

It was agreed that Sadberge Parish Council supports this change to the Statement of Community Involvement. The Clerk will inform Darlington Borough Council.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

6.3 Darlington Borough Council will shortly start the consultation process for its Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options document.

One of the background documents used in the preparation of the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options document was the final report of a Decentralised Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Study carried out by Entec. The Clerk has already submitted comments on this Entec report. In particular, the Entec report misrepresents the Arup Landscape Capacity Studies 'area of least constraint' for wind turbines in the north-eastern part of the Borough of Darlington. (The Arup 'area of least constraint' does not include Sadberge. The 'area of least constraint' shown in the Entec report does include Sadberge.)

It was agreed that the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options document will be discussed at the next meeting. The Clerk will review the document once it is issued for consultation, and will provide the Parish Councillors with copies of the sections most relevant to Sadberge.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

7. Tees Valley Bus Network Improvement Programme

The Parish Council noted that there will be a Talking Together event about the Tees Valley Bus Network Improvement Project in the Dolphin Centre between 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday 20-Jan-2010.

8. Partners And Communities Together (PACT)

- 8.1 Ward Councillor Brian Jones has arranged for a Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting to take place in Sadberge Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 9-Feb-2010.
- 8.2 PC Chris Horner is providing publicity for the meeting.

9. Low Carbon Communities Challenge

- 9.1 The application for Sadberge to participate in the Low Carbon Communities Challenge was submitted before the deadline.
- 9.2 Councillors commented that it was a comprehensive application document, and the Parish Council thanked the Clerk for his work in preparing it.

Councillor Heywood joined the meeting and apologised for his lateness.

10. Wind Farms near Sadberge

- 10.1 There was no news of the proposed A1 Wind Farm.
- 10.2 There was no news of the proposed wind farm at East Newbiggin.
- 10.3 During the week commencing 14-Dec-2009, Banks Developments had a stand in the Cornmill Shopping Centre in Darlington, and were asking people to sign up to say that they support the proposed Moor House Wind Farm.

Via the Cornmill's Promotions Manager, the Clerk asked Banks Developments to display a poster making people aware of (a) the fact that the community of Sadberge is opposed to the Moor House Wind Farm and (b) the reasons for the opposition. Banks Developments declined the request.

The Clerk has written to Adrian Hobbs to make him aware that if Banks Developments present evidence of the support that they obtained during their week in the Cornmill then that evidence needs to be assessed in the context that people who visited the Banks stand were not being informed about local opposition to the proposed Moor House wind farm.

- 10.4 The Parish Council approved the wording of the flyer and 'template objection letter' that will be sent out to Sadberge residents. The flyer will be distributed within the next three weeks.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

It was agreed that the Clerk will arrange for a 'customised objection letter' facility to be provided via the Sadberge web site.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

- 10.5 The Clerk gave a report on the current status of the discussions with Banks Developments on possible ways of protecting residents from possible aerodynamic modulation noise from the Moor House wind farm. Banks Developments has modified its Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to take account of aerodynamic modulation noise, but its current proposal involves asking residents to record 'nuisance noise events', analysing the recordings in conjunction with data from the wind farm's System Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system and then possibly carrying out a noise level monitoring exercise. This completely fails the test of providing residents with relief from significant noise nuisance within a couple of hours.

The Clerk outlined his proposed approach to continuing the discussions with Banks Developments.

It was agreed that the Clerk will continue the discussions with Banks Developments, on the understanding that any proposal arising from these discussions will need to be presented to the Parish Council for approval.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

- 10.6 There was no news about the activities of the Seven Parishes Action Group (SPAG).

11. Planning

- 11.1 The Council noted the outcome of the following planning application:-
 - Granted 09/00762/FUL Erection of a rear conservatory at 3 Dale Road.
- 11.2 The Council noted the following planning application:-
 - 09/00858/TFC Notification of the felling of three trees at 16 Beacon Grange Park.

12. System of internal control

- 12.1 The Council reviewed its system of internal control, including the measures designed to prevent fraud.
- 12.2 It was agreed that the Council's internal controls are appropriate and effective.

13. Risk assessment

- 13.1 The review of the Council's risk assessment and arrangements for managing risk will be carried out at the next meeting.
- 13.2 The Clerk will distribute copies of the current risk assessment to Councillors with these minutes.
ACTION: A Mackenzie

14. Internal audit

- 14.1 The Council reviewed its Internal Audit process and agreed that the existing arrangements are appropriate and satisfactory.
- 14.2 The Clerk will remind the Internal Auditor that he has direct access to the Council, and can contact the Chair of the Council if necessary.
ACTION: A Mackenzie

15. Financial regulations

- 15.1 The Council reviewed its Financial Regulations.
- 15.2 It was agreed to amend item 13.1 to read "The Council shall review these Financial Regulations at least once every four years." This is in line with item 77 (5) of the Council's Standing Orders.

16. Payments

The Council approved the following payments:-

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| • Meeting room hire for Parish Council meetings | £233.75 |
| • Room hire for the Low Carbon Communities Challenge Open Meeting | £12.75 |

17. Sounding Board meeting on Civic Activism in the North East Region

The Council noted an invitation to attend a 'sounding board' meeting in Newcastle on Thursday 28-Jan-2010.

18. Training courses

- 18.1 It was agreed that the Clerk will attend the Clerk's Foundation Course in Middlesbrough on Wednesday 13-Jan-2010 if places are still available.
Note from the Clerk: It turned out that the course was for new Clerks, so the Clerk did not attend.
- 18.2 The Council noted an invitation to attend a training course on Allotments in Durham on Wednesday 24-Feb-2010.

19. Correspondence

The Council noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter from Durham County Council about a public consultation on schools admissions arrangements for 2011-12.
- Letter from Mr. H Best about the ownership of the sycamore tree adjacent to 1 Hillside Terrace.

20. Next meeting

The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held in Sadberge Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 2nd February 2010.

Alastair Mackenzie
Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th JANUARY 2010

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

Signed: Councillor M Scaife _____ Date _____