

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 2nd March 2010 in Sadberge Village Hall

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

In attendance: Councillor Brian Jones Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

1. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Glew and Scaife, and the reasons for their absence was approved.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

The Clerk declared an interest in item 20 – Approval of payments.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Councillor Brian Jones was in attendance at the meeting on 2-Feb-2010.

With this correction, the minutes of the meeting on 2nd February 2010 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from previous meetings

4.1 The new storage facility on the bank at Middleton-One-Row is now available for use. The Clerk has obtained additional keys.

A lockable metal cabinet has been purchased and installed in the new storage facility, and the Clerk has moved some Sadberge Parish Council records into it.

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 is waiting for the confirmation of the diversion of Footpath No. 10 before finishing marking up the map of the footpaths around Sadberge. The Clerk suggested that Liteglaze clear acrylic sheet could be used to protect the map when it is displayed on the village green.

Yvonne has inspected the path leading from Hill House Lane over to West Newbiggin. The path is in good condition in Sadberge Parish, but there are problems across the parish boundary. Yvonne has written to the farmer asking him to repair two stiles and mark out the legal line of the path.

The contractor has recently cut back the overhanging vegetation of Footpath No. 5 (which is the old green lane near the water treatment works). Yvonne will check to make sure that the work has been done properly.

4.4 There was no news about the tree planting in Sadberge.

4.5 The Clerk has asked Phil Haynes to contact the resident who has expressed concerns about the trees on the eastern side of the Stainton View car park.

4.6 There was no news about the access to the playing field north of St. Andrew's Park.

4.7 On Friday 26-Feb-2010 the Clerk and a representative of Enterprise had a site visit to the new telephone pole on the bank at the north edge of the main part of the village green.

The new pole was installed to avoid a long span of wire between poles, not to try to keep the wire clear of the tree. Avoiding a long span of wire between poles is a safety measure adopted in the wake of a fatal accident. The weight of a long length of wire caused a pole to start leaning, and the wire sagged sufficiently to be caught by a passing truck. A worker was thrown from the pole and died.

The representative from Enterprise accepted that the Parish Council should have been asked for permission before the new telephone pole was installed. The Clerk has asked him to arrange for a written explanation and apology.

It was noted that an article about residents' concerns about the new telephone pole had led to some comments on the Northern Echo web site to the effect that Sadberge residents are over-concerned about trivial issues.

- 4.8 The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's insurance includes £5,000,000 of public liability cover.
- 4.9 The Clerk has created back-up CDs of the relevant electronic documents and other files. The CDs will be kept in the metal cupboard in the storage facility in Middleton-One-Row.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

5. Maintenance of the St. Andrew's churchyard

In response to a request from the St. Andrew's Parochial Church Council, Sadberge Parish Council decided to make a donation of £575 towards the cost of maintaining the St. Andrew's churchyard, and approved the relevant payment.

6. Northumbria in Bloom competition

- 6.1 A local resident, who has been clearing part of the land on the south side of Darlington Road near Laurel Terrace, has asked for assistance with (a) disposing of rubble from the site and (b) obtaining wood chippings to make temporary paths.

The Clerk has contacted the Street Scene team to see if they can help, but it is unlikely that they will be able to provide assistance with disposing of the rubble.

It was agreed to allocate £150 to assist with the clearing of the land. This will come from the funds set aside for a project to celebrate Sadberge's success in the 2008 Calor Village of the Year competition.

Councillor Best and the Clerk will make the arrangements for the disposal of the rubble.

ACTION: Councillor Best /
A Mackenzie

- 6.2 It was agreed to send out a newsletter within the next week or so.

The newsletter will include information about the Northumbrian in Bloom competition, and will invite Sadberge residents to get involved with clearing and cultivating the land near Laurel Terrace.

For other topics to be included in the newsletter, see the relevant notes throughout these minutes.

The Clerk will finalise the format and wording of the newsletter in consultation with Councillor Scaife, and will arrange for the newsletters to be printed and distributed.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

7. PACT meeting

- 7.1 The PACT meeting on 9-Feb-2010 was well attended and there was a good discussion.
- 7.2 The top two priorities were agreed to be (i) action to reduce the speed of vehicles in Sadberge (via Speed Watch) and (ii) dangerous parking.
- 7.3 Councillor Brian Jones is addressing other issues that were raised during the PACT meeting.
- 7.4 The Parish Council noted that the next Pact meeting will take place in Sadberge Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 9-Mar-2010.

8. Speed Watch

- 8.1 Following the PACT meeting, there have been three Community Speed Watch sessions in Sadberge. In two hours and forty minutes of monitoring, 32 vehicles were caught travelling at 35 mph or more within the 30 mph speed limit.
- 8.2 The Clerk had produced posters to inform local residents that Speed Watch sessions have started in Sadberge. It was noted that displaying the posters in the two village pubs had attracted

a good deal of attention. In future, the pubs should be provided with copies of all relevant posters.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

- 8.3 It had been observed that the sight of a speed indicator display (SID) manned by two people in high visibility jackets had a very definite – and positive – effect on drivers' behaviour.
- 8.4 The Clerk had contacted Michael Straugheir (Traffic Management Officer in Durham Constabulary) to enquire whether it would be possible for Sadberge Parish Council to obtain a SID and use it for a Speed Monitoring Programme in support of the Community Speed Watch scheme. However, Michael Straugheir – and Darlington Borough Council's Highways Department – would not support this action because they believe that a Police Constable (PC) or Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) should be present whenever speed monitoring is taking place in order to forestall any public order issues that may arise.
- 8.5 The following points were made during the discussion:
- Traffic speed is a problem in all the local villages.
 - In other Authorities' areas the Local Highways Authority and the Police are finding ways of enabling parish councils to contribute to tackling with this issue. In Darlington the Highways Authority and the Police seem to be more concerned with the details of the regulations.
 - There is only one vehicle activated sign in Darlington Borough (in Coatham Mundeville).
- 8.6 The Parish Council is concerned that after the first few weeks the frequency of Speed Watch sessions will drop because of other demands on the Neighbourhood Policing Team's time. Without a Speed Monitoring Programme, this will mean that drivers will encounter a manned SID too seldom for them to get into the habit of being careful to keep their speeds down in Sadberge.
- 8.7 It was agreed that, as the limiting factor is likely to be the availability of PCs and PCSOs, there would be no advantage in the Parish Council buying a SID for use within the Speed Watch scheme.

9. Project to celebrate Sadberge's success in the 2008 Calor Village of the Year competition

- 9.1 The responses to the questionnaire that was sent out in January 2009 indicated a strong preference for action to reduce vehicle speeds in Sadberge.
- However, Darlington Borough Council's Highways Department does not support the idea of Sadberge buying and deploying a vehicle activated sign, and Michael Straugheir and the Highways Department do not support the idea of Sadberge buying a speed indicator device and running a Speed Monitoring Programme.
- 9.2 The second most popular idea was chainsaw carvings on the village green near Tithe House.
- 9.3 £150 has been allocated to helping to clear the piece of land near Laurel Terrace.
- 9.4 After discussion, it was decided to defer a decision until a later date. Sadberge residents will be asked for their views at the Parish Meeting in May.
- This will be publicised in the forthcoming newsletter. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

10. Best of Darlington awards ceremony on Friday 26-Feb-2010

- 10.1 In the Best of Darlington awards, Josh Phillips won the Academic Excellence award and Sadberge Parish Council won the Contribution to the Environment award.
- The Clerk will write to Josh to give him the Parish Council's congratulations on winning his award.
- ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- The Parish Council thanked the Clerk for his work on the Sadberge Energy Saving Project.

11. Sadberge Festival

- 11.1 The Parish Council acknowledged the receipt of £1,255.65 of Festival income from Councillor Scaife and approved the following payment:-
- Sadberge Summer Festival expenses £350.74
- 11.2 The Festival Committee has been meeting to progress the arrangements for the 2010 festival.

- 11.3 The Clerk gave an summary of the options for organising and funding Sadberge Summer Festivals. One option would be for the Festival to remain a Parish Council event. The festival would be organised by the Festival Committee on behalf of the Parish Council. Some funding would come from the Parish Council, with the rest provided by a 'Friends of Sadberge Festival' organisation.

It was agreed in principle that the Parish Council would be happy with this arrangement, with the understanding that the budget for each year's festival would be £500 plus whatever could be provided by the 'Friends of Sadberge Festival'.

Councillor Brian Jones left the meeting.

12. Darlington Local Development Framework

- 12.1 The report on the meeting with the Planning Officers was deferred until the next meeting.
- 12.2 The Clerk had submitted the Parish Council's comments on the Core Strategy: Revised Preferred Options document.

13. Wind farms near Sadberge

- 13.1 The discussions with Banks Developments about possible ways of protecting residents from possible aerodynamic modulation noise from the Moor House wind farm are now concluded. Banks Developments intends to proceed on the basis of its current Environmental Management Plan. This does not provide for action to be taken within the necessary time-scale.
- 13.2 It was agreed to request copies of the wind speed data that has been collected by the Moor House and East Newbiggin anemometer masts. This will be used to investigate how often stable atmospheric conditions occur over this area, how long they last and the prevailing wind speeds and directions on these occasions. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie / Councillor Scaife
- 13.3 It was agreed to request that any planning permission for commercial-scale wind turbines in this area is accompanied by a planning condition requiring the operator to continuously monitor wind speed and direction at two heights and to make that data available to the Local Planning Authority on request. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie / Councillor Scaife
- 13.4 The Clerk reported that Bob Stratford (Clerk to the Mordon Parish Meeting) had contacted E.ON to enquire about the current state of the A1 Wind Farm proposal. A representative of E.ON had told Bob that E.ON is reviewing its plans for the A1 Wind Farm and there will be a full consultation at a later date (which may be before or after the General Election).
The Clerk had contacted Dave Walker, the Durham County Council Planning Officer responsible for dealing with the A1 Wind Farm application. Dave had said that the application had come to "a bit of a standstill" while E.ON addresses a "significant aviation problem" concerning Durham Tees Valley Airport's air traffic control radar and formal objection from Natural England over the way that the bat survey had been carried out.
The following points were made during the discussion:
- A 'full consultation' would not be needed if the proposed project was being cancelled.
 - Phil Wilson MP has been taking an interest in wind farms in this area.
- It was agreed that the Clerk will contact Phil Wilson to ask if he is able to provide any further information about E.ON's plans. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 13.5 There was no news of the proposed wind farms at East and West Newbiggin.
- 13.6 There was no news from the Seven Parishes Action Group (SPAG).
- 13.7 It was noted that there will be an anti-wind-farm conference in Polam Hall, Darlington on Saturday 6-Mar-2010.

14. Parish Council mailboxes

- 14.1 Two Parish Council mailboxes are in place. One is outside the Village Hall and the other is beside the notice board on the village green in the centre of the village.

14.2 The third mailbox has been bought, but the Highways Department has not yet given permission for it to be installed at the junction of Norton Crescent and Norton Road.

The Clerk has been told that Dave Winstanley (the Assistant Director for Highways and Engineering) has concerns about the mailbox being installed on the pavement.

The Clerk will continue to try to get permission to install the third mailbox in the desired location.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

Information about the Parish Council mailboxes will be included in the forthcoming newsletter.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

15. Darlington Association of Parish Councils (DAPC)

The main topic at the DAPC meeting on Tuesday 16-Feb-2010 was a presentation on the Standards Committee and the Code of Conduct.

16. Youth Council

Discussion of this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

17. Tees Valley Rural Summit on Wednesday 24-Feb-2010

Discussion of this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

18. Waste processing and recycling

Councillor Vickers and the Clerk reported on a visit to the Mechanical Biological Treatment plant at Wade's Aycliffe Quarry site. It is an impressive facility, which uses controlled aerobic decomposition to decontaminate and dry the mixed waste so that recyclable materials can be (manually) extracted.

19. Planning

The Council approved the following planning application without comment:-

- 10/00026/FUL Extension of the time limit for the planning permission to erect a single storey rear extension at 2 Sadberge Hall Farm.

20. Approval of payments

The following payments were approved:-

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| • Clerk's salary | £1,194.00 |
| • Metal cabinet | £158.98 |
| • Keys for the new store | £15.00 |
| • Parish Council mailboxes | £119.97 |
| • Printing flyers | £124.00 |

21. Sadberge Parish Meeting and Sadberge Parish Council Annual Meeting

21.1 It was agreed that the Sadberge Parish Meeting and the Sadberge Parish Council Annual Meeting (which are often jointly referred to as the "Parish Council AGM") will be held on the evening of Tuesday 18th May 2010 provided that Councillor Scaife is available on that date.

21.2 It was agreed that the 'reserve date' is Tuesday 25th May 2010.

22. Correspondence

The Council noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter from the NSPCC about its Helpline.
- Letter from Darlington Borough Council about the Standards Committee web site.
- Letter from Durham County Council about the County Durham Environment Awards.
- Letter from the Energy Saving Trust about Green Communities.

23. Next meeting

The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held in Sadberge Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 13th April 2010.

Alastair Mackenzie
Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2nd MARCH 2010

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

Signed: Councillor M Scaife _____ Date _____