

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 13th April 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 received from Ward Councillor Brian Jones.

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 2nd March 2010 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from previous meetings

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

4.2 The necessary 'path furniture' has been installed on the newly diverted section of Footpath 10. Once the diversion Order has been confirmed Yvonne Ramage will finish marking up the map of the footpaths around Sadberge.

Yvonne Ramage has been in touch with the landowner to try to resolve the problems with the path leading from Hill House Lane over West Newbiggin.

Darlington Borough Council's contractor has made a very tidy job of cutting back the vegetation along Footpath 5 (the old green lane near the water treatment works). This work will be carried out every three years.

The issue of footpaths around Sadberge will be put on the agenda for the Parish Meeting.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

The Parish Council is concerned about rubbish being dumped near the water treatment works. It was pointed out that there used to be a bollard to prevent vehicular access.

The Clerk will contact the Water Board to inform them that a hypodermic needle has been found near the water treatment works. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

4.3 The three new trees – and a replacement cherry tree – should be planted on the village green by the end of April.

4.4 Phil Haynes has contacted the resident who expressed concerns about the trees on the eastern side of the Stainton View car park.

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

4.6 Enterprise have written to offer their apologies for erecting the new telegraph pole on Parish Council land without asking for permission. It was agreed to accept this apology.

5. Darlington Green Award and Best of Darlington Award

5.1 It was noted that Sadberge Parish Council won the 'Tackling Climate Change' category in the Darlington Local Strategic Partnership Awards 2009 for the Sadberge Energy Saving Project. The Parish Council congratulated the Climate Change Working Group.

5.2 Sadberge Parish Council had already won the Contribution to the Environment award in the Best of Darlington Awards.

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- 5.3 It was agreed to ask the Sadberge Village Hall Association to display the certificates and the plaque in Sadberge Village Hall. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 5.4 The Clerk will get the certificates framed. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

6. Northumbria in Bloom competition

- 6.1 The spring judging visit took place on 7-Apr-2010. The judges indicated that the judging would take into account community involvement, flower displays and environmental project(s).
The summer judging visit will take place on Friday 16-Apr-2010, which is the day before the Sadberge Summer Festival.
- 6.2 Ten people attended a meeting of the Sadberge in Bloom Working Group on Tuesday 30-Mar-2010.
The group identified areas needing attention, in particular the untidy piece of land near Laurel Terrace. The rubble from the old wall is being put into piles that can be picked up from the road. Darlington Borough Council has provided bins for glass.
The Clerk will find out whether Community Service Order groups could help with tidying the land. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 6.3 Sadberge residents will be encouraged to grow plants from seed now so that they are available in the summer.
It might be an idea to arrange a 'plant swap'. This could take place at a coffee morning or in at the Parish Meeting on 25-May-2010.
- 6.4 The Clerk will investigate the possibility of obtaining flower troughs to go on railings in various locations around the village. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 6.5 It would be a good idea to install attractive floral displays at the village entrances.
- 6.6 Councillor Scaife will draft an application for funding from the Darlington Community Fund. **ACTION:** Councillor Scaife
- 6.7 Two sets of litter picking equipment are available in the village hall.
- 6.8 The Clerk will investigate the practicalities of setting up a community compost facility. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

7. Cherry Tree Farm

The Parish Council noted that a 'tunnel' for chickens has been installed at Cherry Tree Farm. The Clerk will ask Darlington Borough Council whether this is consistent with the planning permission. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

8. Hedge on the west side of Hill House Lane to the north of Sadberge

- 8.1 Local residents have asked whether it would be possible to trim back the hedge on the west side of Hill House Lane immediately to the north of Sadberge so that they can walk along the verge rather than on the road.
- 8.2 The following points were made during the discussion:-
- The hedge was planted in about 1998 to support a wall that is part of the Medieval village.
 - If the hedge is cut then the wall may collapse.
 - Removing the wall would need permission from English Heritage.
 - The hedge is overhanging the verge, not the road itself.
 - Would it be practical to remove the wall and provide a footpath between the northern edge of Sadberge and the start of the green lane?
- 8.3 The Clerk will investigate the options. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

9. PACT meeting

- 9.1 Representatives of Sadberge Parish Council and the North Villages PACT attended a "Your Police – Your Say" surgery in Darlington Town Hall on Thursday 18-Mar-2010. The Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary, Jon Stoddart, and the South Area Commander, Andy Reddick, were supportive of the idea of Sadberge Parish Council buying a speed indicating device (SID) and running a Speed Monitoring Programme in support of the Speed Watch programme. Andy Reddick has been discussing this with Michael Straugheir and Chief Inspector Andy Huddleston.
- 9.2 At the North Villages PACT meeting in Sadberge Village Hall on Thursday 8-Apr-2010 the top two priorities were updated to be (i) action to reduce the speed of vehicles in Sadberge and (ii) dog fouling.

10. Dog fouling

The Parish Council noted that the Dog Control Orders for Darlington Borough came into effect on Monday 12-Apr-2010 and that dog fouling is now one of the priorities for the North Villages PACT.

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

- 11.1 As was reported under item 9 above, senior police officers are supportive of the suggestion that Sadberge Parish Council could buy a speed indicator device and use it for a Speed Monitoring Programme.
- 11.2 Parish Councillors expressed concerns about whether the proposed chain-saw carvings would be long-lasting.
- 11.3 It was decided that a decision on how to spend the money that has been set aside to celebrate Sadberge's success in the 2008 Calor Village of the Year competition will be made at the Annual Meeting of Sadberge Parish Council on Tuesday 25-May-2010 on the basis of the information available at that time, including the views expressed during the Parish Meeting earlier that evening.
- 11.4 The Clerk will invite the chainsaw carver to attend the Parish Meeting.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

12. Sadberge Festival

- 12.1 It was agreed to hold a Sadberge Summer Festival in 2010.
- 12.2 The budget for the 2010 festival will be £785 plus whatever additional funding is provided by the Friends of Sadberge Festival.
- 12.3 It was agreed to ask the Sadberge Festival Committee to organise the 2010 festival on behalf of the Parish Council.
- 12.4 It was noted that:-
 - There will be a Festival Fundraiser event on Saturday 24-Apr-2010.
 - The next meeting of the Sadberge Festival Committee will be held on Tuesday 27-Apr-2010.

13. Darlington Local Development Framework

- 13.1 The Clerk reported that, in response to comments by Sadberge Parish Councillors, Darlington Borough Council has agreed to modify the wording of the Statement of Community Involvement to say that developers should inform "any parish council whose parish includes the site, is next to the site, or could be significantly affected by the development proposal".
- 13.2 Darlington Borough Council is considering the comments on its Core Strategy: Revised Preferred Options document, including in particular the comments on the section on Promoting Renewable Energy.

14. Wind farms near Sadberge

- 14.1 Darlington Borough Council has indicated that the Moor House Wind Farm planning application will not go before the Planning Committee until June at the earliest.
- 14.2 The Clerk gave an overview of the results of his analysis of four months of wind speed and direction data from the monitoring mast at Moor House.
- There are periods of very high wind shear over this part of the Tees Plain. These periods of very high wind shear occur for around 25 - 35 hours per month, almost exclusively during evenings and night times; i.e. between 5 p.m. and 9 a.m. Individual periods of very high wind shear generally last for around 3 - 4 hours, although some are considerably longer (e.g. 10 hours).
 - The methodology that has been used for the Updated Noise Assessment is seriously flawed and the assessment cannot be relied on for assurance that the noise from the proposed Moor House Wind Farm will remain within the limits specified by ETSU-R-97.
 - Provided that the wind speed and direction data are representative of atmospheric conditions over the longer term, there is very little chance that Sadberge will be affected by aerodynamic modulation noise from the proposed Moor House wind farm. However, Great Stainton and (particularly) Little Stainton may be affected by aerodynamic modulation noise.
- 14.3 It was agreed to request that any planning permission for the Moor House Wind Farm is accompanied by planning conditions designed to protect residents from possible aerodynamic modulation noise generated by the wind farm. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 14.4 It is understood that the planning application for the proposed A1 Wind Farm has been withdrawn, and that E.ON intends to submit a replacement planning application for a much larger wind farm in the same area.
- 14.5 There was no news of the proposed wind farms at East and West Newbiggin.
- 14.6 There was no news from the Seven Parishes Action Group (SPAG).

15. Sadberge Energy Saving Project

- 15.1 The Climate Change Working Group has helped the Sadberge Village Hall Association to prepare and submit an application for a grant to install solar photovoltaic panels on the village hall roof.
- 15.2 The Eco-eyes and plug-in monitors are being sold off as agreed.

16. Parish Council mailboxes

- 16.1 Darlington Borough Council's Highways department is not happy with the idea of a Parish Council mailbox being installed at the back of the pavement at the junction of Norton Crescent and Norton Road. There are a number of regulatory issues to take into consideration.
- 16.2 It was agreed to explore the option of installing the third mailbox just behind – or over – the boundary wall of a private property near the junction between Abbey Road and Norton Road. The Clerk will approach relevant residents to ask for their permission. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

17. Youth Council

- 17.1 The Sadberge Youth Council has done a litter pick on Hampass and down to Beacon Hill, and has produced notices about dog fouling.
- 17.2 Ward Councillor Brian Jones joined the Youth Council on a visit to the children's play area, which is very muddy and virtually unusable. Funding to sort out the drains may be available from money provided by Riever Homes for the purpose of providing access to play equipment.
- 17.3 Councillor Scaife will invite a representative of the Youth Council to give a report at the Parish Meeting on Tuesday 25-May-2010. **ACTION:** Councillor Scaife

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

Councillor Scaife attended the Tees Valley Rural Summit, which addressed the issues of transport, health, access to services and the ageing population.

19. Planning

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

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

The Council approved the following planning applications without comment:-

- 10/00092/FUL Loft conversion incorporating a rear dormer and window to the north gable and three velux type roof lights to the front and rear at 1 Richmond Cottages.
- 10/00096/FUL Construction of a driveway including parking for two cars at 22 Norton Road.
- 10/00145/FUL Erection of a replacement conservatory and construction of a first floor extension at Oaklands House, Hill House Lane.

20. Accounts and Internal Audit for 2009-10

The Clerk is preparing the accounts and the Internal Audit pack.

21. Sadberge Parish Meeting and Sadberge Parish Council Annual Meeting

21.1 It was agreed that:-

- The Sadberge Parish Meeting will be held in Sadberge Village Hall at 6 p.m. on Tuesday 25-May-2010.
- The Annual Meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held in Sadberge Village Hall shortly after the conclusion of the Sadberge Parish Meeting.

21.2 The Clerk will arrange to provide tea, coffee and nibbles for the Parish Meeting.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

21.3 The Clerk will produce and distribute a flyer to advertise the Sadberge Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of Sadberge Parish Council.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

22. Correspondence

22.1 The Council noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter from Butterwick House Children's Hospice requesting a donation.

22.2 The Council considered a letter from the Society of Local Council Clerks about a "Working With Your Council" course over two days in May and June 2010.

It was decided that the Clerk should attend this course provided that the cost is no more than £100.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

23. Next meeting

The Annual Meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held in Sadberge Village Hall at approximately 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday 25th May 2010, shortly after the conclusion of the Sadberge Parish Meeting.

Alastair Mackenzie
Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13th APRIL 2010

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

Signed: Councillor M Scaife _____ Date _____