

# SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Annual Meeting held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2010 in Sadberge Village Hall

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

**In attendance:** Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

### 1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

- 1.1 Councillor Scaife was elected as Chair of the Council for the coming year.
- 1.2 Councillor Best was elected as Vice-Chair of the Council for the coming year.
- 1.3 Councillors Scaife and Best signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office.

### 2. Apologies

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

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

There were no declarations of interest.

### 4. Minutes of previous meetings

- 4.1 Item 6.1 of the minutes of the meeting on 13-Apr-2010 should have said that the summer judging visit for Northumbria in Bloom will take place on Friday 16-Jul-2010. With this correction, the minutes of the meeting on 13-Apr-2010 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.
- 4.2 The minutes of the meeting on 11-May-2010 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

### 5. Matters arising

- 5.1 The Clerk has still to arrange for various items of Council information to be added to the Sadberge web site. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 5.2 The Clerk will contact Phil Haynes to find out when the three new trees – and a replacement cherry tree – are going to be planted on the village green. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 5.3 There was no news about the access to the playing field north of St. Andrew's Park.
- 5.4 The Clerk has found a plan showing that in September 1971 the trees on the land between Stockton Road and 1 Hillside Terrace were the responsibility of Durham County Council. He has given a copy of the relevant section of the plan to the resident who is pursuing the question of ownership of the one remaining sycamore tree on that piece of land. Darlington Borough Council says that the land was not included in the transfer agreement between Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council in 1997, and they have not accepted responsibility for the land or the tree.
- 5.5 There was no news about the map of the footpaths around Sadberge.
- 5.6 There was nothing new to report on the Sadberge Energy Saving Project.
- 5.7 The Sadberge Youth Council had made a presentation to the Parish Meeting that preceded the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.
- 5.8 Councillor Schott will make a bracket to display the wooden plate that the Parish Council received for winning the Tackling Climate Change category in the Darlington Local Strategic Partnership Green Awards. **ACTION:** Councillor Schott
- 5.9 There was no news about the 'chicken tunnel' at Cherry Tree Farm.

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5.10 The Councillors viewed photographs of the hedge on the west side of Hill House Lane to the north of Sadberge. The hedge is supporting the old wall (that was part of the Medieval village), and protecting the verge from erosion by heavy vehicles. If English Heritage are willing to allow the wall to be removed then the landowner would consider selling a strip of land to Darlington Borough Council to make a footpath linking the northern end of Sadberge to the track leading to Footpath 5, which is the old green lane. The Clerk will discuss this with Yvonne Ramage.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

5.11 The Clerk has still to ask a local resident for permission to install the third Parish Council mailbox just behind their boundary wall.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

5.12 The Clerk has attended the first session of the Working With Your Council course.

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

6.1 It was decided to go ahead with the chainsaw carvings on the village green near Tithe House. The cost will be approximately £1,100.

The Clerk will ask Tommy Craggs to provide suggestions for the carvings.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

6.2 It was decided to allocate £250 to cover the costs of the equipment (e.g. high-visibility jackets) needed to participate in the 'volunteer-only' extension to the Community Speed Watch Scheme.

6.3 The Clerk will investigate the options for a new notice board for the village green. The preference is for a wooden notice board that is large enough for the map of the footpaths around Sadberge to be displayed on the back.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## **7. Community Speed Watch**

The Council noted the discussion that had taken place during the Parish Meeting that preceded the Parish Council meeting.

## **8. Northumbria in Bloom competition**

The Council noted the discussion that had taken place during the Parish Meeting.

- There is an intention to create floral displays at the village entrances, probably in agricultural artefacts such as tractor tyres.
- A local resident has created a "Sadberge" sign consisting of wire-frame letters filled with moss.
- The Youth Council is going to plant flowers in colours of the rainbow in troughs along the edge of the church path.
- The children attending the craft classes are making large paper flowers.
- There will be a one-hour judging visit on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2010.
- As well as the main prize, there are also prizes for the best churchyard, the best pub and the best individual garden (viewable from the public road).

## **9. Parking along Church View**

The Council considered an anonymous letter raising concerns about parked vehicles obstructing the footpath along Church View.

The Clerk will write to a resident who often parks a van on the Church View footpath.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## **10. Safety and security of the disused reservoir adjacent to Sadberge**

The Council noted that the disused reservoir is apparently well-known amongst mountain bikers as a site for extreme biking, and that there is very little to stop people from gaining access to the reservoir site. The police are aware of the issue, and Ward Councillor Brian Jones has contacted Northumbrian Water.

## **11. Dog fouling**

There was nothing new to report. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation.

## 12. Footpaths around Sadberge

The Council noted the discussion that had taken place during the Parish Meeting.

- Sadberge residents are being asked to 'adopt a footpath'. This will involve walking the relevant path about 2 - 3 times per year and reporting any issues.

## 13. North Village PACT

Alan Burrows, the Chair of the North Villages PACT, had made a presentation to the Parish Meeting. The next meeting of the North Villages PACT will take place in Sadberge Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 15-Jun-2010.

## 14. Wind farms near Sadberge

- 14.1 There was no news about the proposed A1 Wind Farm near Mordon.
- 14.2 The Moor House Wind Farm planning application will probably go before the Planning Committee during July 2010.
- 14.3 There was no news about the proposed wind farms at East & West Newbiggin.
- 14.4 There was no news about the activities of the Seven Parishes Action Group (SPAG).

## 15. Sadberge Summer Festival on Saturday 17-Jul-2010

The Council noted the discussion that had taken place during the Parish Meeting.

## 16. Consultation on the Accommodating Growth Development Plan Document

It was agreed to ask Darlington Borough Council to include Parish Plans in the evidence base for the Accommodating Growth DPD.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 17. Parish Plan

There was nothing new to report.

## 18. Darlington Association of Parish Councils and Parish Meetings

- 18.1 There will be a Rural Briefing Workshop on the Local Transport Plan in Sadberge Village Hall on the evening of Thursday 17-Jun-2010.

Councillor Scaife will invite Don Taylor to attend the workshop.

**ACTION:** Councillor Scaife

The Clerk will invite Brenda Pitt and Ann Chapman to attend the workshop.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

- 18.2 The DAPC Annual General Meeting will take place in Darlington Town Hall on the evening of Wednesday 30-Jun-2010.

## 19. Accounts, Internal Audit and Annual Return

Discussion of this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

## 20. Planning

The Council noted the outcomes of the following planning applications:-

- Granted 10/000092/FUL Loft conversion at 1 Richmond Cottages.
- Granted 10/000096/FUL Construction of a driveway at 22 Norton Road.

## 21. Payments

The Council approved the following payment:-

- Plants for the village garden opposite the Buck Inn £33.00

**22. Correspondence**

22.1 Letter from CE Electric UK about an improved system for reporting routine maintenance problems such as graffiti, litter or overgrown weeds in substations and trees growing close to overhead power lines.

22.2 Arriva's 'Stakeholder Update' on their bus services in County Durham and Darlington.

**23. Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held in Sadberge Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

**Alastair Mackenzie**  
**Clerk**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25<sup>th</sup> MAY 2010

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

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