

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 14th June 2010 in Sadberge Village Hall

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

In attendance: Councillor Brian Jones Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

1. Apologies

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

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

- 2.1 Councillor Schott declared an interest in item 7.3 – payments related to Sadberge's entry for the Northumbria in Bloom competition and in item 15.2 – planning application 10/00305/FUL.
- 2.2 Councillor Vickers declared an interest in item 15.2 – planning application 10/00326/FUL.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Councillor Heywood was present at the Annual Meeting on 25-Apr-2010, and the meeting started at approximately 7 p.m. With these corrections, the minutes of the Annual Meeting on 25-Apr-2010 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

- 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 tree planting on the village green near Tithe House has been delayed because Darlington Borough Council staff have been very busy. Phil Haynes will inform the Clerk when a date has been set for the trees to be planted.
- 4.3 Regarding disabled access to the playing field north of St. Andrew's Park, the developer has produced a plan showing the ramp going down to the left. This will involve losing a tree – which Darlington Borough Council's Senior Arboricultural Officer is not very happy with. However, the Planning Officer (Dave McGaughey) believes that this is better than losing two or three trees to a ramp going down to the right, and is minded to recommend acceptance of the revised plan.
The next step is for the developer to formally submit the revised proposal. It will come to Sadberge Parish Council for comment – probably at the Council's meeting in early July – and will then go to the Planning Committee for approval.
- 4.4 There was no news about the map of the public footpaths around Sadberge.
- 4.5 Arrangements are being made to display the 'green award' certificates and plate.
- 4.6 The relevant Planning Officer (Dave McGaughey) has spoken to the owner of Cherry Tree Farm. There are some conditions – relating to landscaping and surface water run-off / drainage – that have not yet been satisfied.
Dave McGaughey is satisfied that the chicken building is sufficiently similar to what was in the approved plans. The building is currently empty, but Dave McGaughey understands that some birds are due to be delivered shortly.
The Parish Council believes that the chicken building is not similar to the design in the planning application, as (a) it is fixed rather than being mobile, (b) it is a different type of structure and (c) it is larger than was shown in the approved plans. The Clerk will write to Dave McGaughey to communicate the Parish Council's views. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 4.7 The Clerk has still to contact Yvonne Ramage about the hedge on the west side of Hill House Lane to the north of Sadberge. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

/ continued

- 4.8 The Clerk has still to contact the relevant resident to ask for permission to install the third Parish Council mailbox at the front of her garden. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 4.9 The Clerk has still to submit the Parish Council's comments on the scope of the Accommodating Growth Development Plan Document. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 4.10 There was no further news about dog fouling in Sadberge.
- 4.11 The benches in and around Sadberge have been treated. The invoice for the work has not yet been received.

5. Accounts, Internal Audit and Annual Return

- 5.1 The Council approved the updated Register of Assets (dated 10-Apr-2010).
- 5.2 The Clerk reported that the internal audit has not yet been signed off, but that the Internal Auditor has indicated that he will not be raising any issues for the Council's attention.
- 5.3 The Council approved the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2010.
- 5.4 The Council approved the Statement of Accounts in Section 1 of the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2010.
- 5.5 The Council approved "Yes" answers to statements A - J and a "N/A" answer to statement K of the Annual Governance Statement in Section 2 of the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2010.

6. Grass cutting in Sadberge

- 6.1 Local residents have expressed a lot of concern about the quality of the grass cutting. In particular:-
- The people driving the mowers seem to be 'racing around' and making sharp turns. This is leading to scuffed, bare patches on the triangle of village green under the oak tree in the middle of the village.
 - The village entrances have been left in a very untidy state, with long grass partly obscuring the bollards.
 - The grass has not been cut on the bank in front of Richmond Cottages.
- 6.2 Councillor Scaife reported that Carol Carter, Darlington Borough Council's Street Scene Team Leader, has said that it is now the Borough Council's policy to leave more rough grass for 'ecological reasons'.
- 6.3 It was noted that the current state of the grass cutting will harm Sadberge's chances of doing well in the Northumbria in Bloom competition.
- 6.4 It was agreed that the Parish Council is not asking for the grass to be 'manicured', but it should be cut properly and neatly.
- 6.5 The Clerk will invite Carol Carter to come along on the Parish Council's annual inspection tour. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

7. Northumbria in Bloom competition

- 7.1 The Sadberge in Bloom garden group has been meeting regularly.
- 7.2 Tractor tyres have been obtained. They will be planted up shortly.
- 7.3 The Parish Council noted the generous donation of time by the volunteers who have been working on the 'central project' near Laurel Terrace. Plants and flowers have also been donated, and a village resident has made a donation of £300. Part of this money was used to pay for the work to level off the land near Laurel Terrace.
- 7.4 There will be a 'Best Dressed Wheelbarrow' competition.

Councillor Schott left the meeting.

- 7.5 It was agreed to obtain two hanging basket stands – each with attachments for six baskets – for installation on the village green.

Thorn Welding has provided a quote for the supply and installation of the hanging basket stands. The Clerk will obtain a second quote and place the order on the basis of the lower quote.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

Councillor Schott re-joined the meeting.

7.6 It was agreed that the Parish Council will pay for the hire of a skip to remove the remaining rubble and rubbish from the land near Laurel Terrace.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

7.7 Councillor Scaife has been trying to contact Darlington Borough Council's Highways Department to check whether there will be any problems with putting floral displays at the village entrances. The Clerk will take photographs of the village entrances to help with the communication of what is being suggested.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

7.8 It is now possible to obtain a free exemption from the need to obtain a Waste Treatment Licence for small-scale community compost facilities. The Clerk is investigating the options for establishing such a facility in Sadberge, possibly at the back of Hampass, and will report back at the next meeting.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

8. Sadberge Summer Festival

8.1 Arrangements for the festival are in hand. The programme for the day will be confirmed at the Festival Committee meeting on Wednesday 15-Jun-2010.

8.2 Councillor Scaife is compiling a list of helpers. More volunteers are needed.

8.3 It was agreed that it would be a good idea for the chainsaw carving to be done on the day of the festival, provided that the noise will not disturb the other activities. The Clerk will investigate.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

9. North Villages PACT

The next meeting of the North Villages PACT will be held in Sadberge Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday 15-Jun-2010.

10. Community Speed Watch

10.1 Durham Constabulary is continuing to draw up a protocol for the 'volunteer-only' Speed Watch session.

10.2 The Clerk will check that the 'volunteer-only' Speed Watch sessions will be covered by the Parish Council's insurance.

10.3 Subject to the protocol and the insurance situation being satisfactory, the Parish Council agreed to participate in the proposed extension of the Community Speed Watch scheme to include 'volunteer-only' sessions.

10.4 A call for volunteers will be included in the next issue of Sadberge Parish News.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

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

11.1 The Clerk has still to investigate the options for obtaining a new notice board for the village green. Initial indications are that a suitable notice board might cost around £800 - £1,200

ACTION: A Mackenzie

11.2 After discussion, it was agreed that the chainsaw carvings will be a Roman soldier, a Viking warrior and (if the third trunk is suitable) a Saxon child. The Clerk will communicate this to the person who will be doing the carving.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

11.3 A newsletter – in the Sadberge Parish News format – will be issued as soon as possible. Contents will include the chainsaw carvings, activities associated with Sadberge's entry for the Northumbria in Bloom competition and the extension to the Community Speed Watch scheme. The Clerk will finalise the wording of the newsletter in consultation with Councillor Scaife, and will arrange for the newsletters to be printed and distributed.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

12. Wind farms near Sadberge

12.1 The Moor House Wind Farm planning application will probably go before the Planning Committee during July 2010. There is likely to be a special meeting of the Planning Committee.

It was agreed to request that Darlington Borough Council arrange an opportunity for the Clerk to present his findings on excess amplitude modulation (EAM) to the Planning Committee members before they consider the Moor House Wind Farm planning application. The Clerk will write to Dave Coates to make the request. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

12.2 There was no news about the proposed wind farms at East & West Newbiggin. It appears that Pure Renewable Energies' parent company, the ESH Group, is not particularly interested in wind farms.

12.3 There was no news about the proposed A1 Wind Farm near Mordon.

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

13. Darlington Association of Parish Councils and Parish Meetings

13.1 There will be a Rural Briefing Workshop on the Local Transport Plan in Sadberge Village Hall on at 6:15 p.m. for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday 17-Jun-2010.

As well as the usual Sadberge Parish Council representatives at DAPC meetings, Sadberge will also be represented by Don & Barbara Taylor, Brenda Pitt and Ann Chapman.

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

14. Darlington Partnership Assembly

The Council noted that on Monday 21-Jun-2010 there will be a Darlington Partnership Assembly meeting titled "Help Shape Darlington – What do you want around the Town Centre".

15. Planning

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

- Granted 10/00199/FUL Erection of a steel portal building at Raby Farm.
- Granted 1000237/FUL Erection of a single storey rear extension at The Dorma, Stockton Road.

15.2 Darlington Borough Council has granted planning permission for application number 10/00187/FUL, erection of a dwelling house on land near Laurel Terrace.

The Parish Council noted that the Borough Council's Conservation Officer had said that the proposed house was not in keeping with the surrounding properties.

It was agreed that the Parish Council is concerned and disappointed at the granting of this planning permission, particularly because the proposed house (a) extends beyond the Sadberge development limit and (b) will not be in keeping with the nearby properties in the oldest part of the village.

It was also agreed to request that the Parish Council is given an opportunity to see and comment on the details of the proposed finish, etc. before these are approved by Darlington Borough Council.

The Clerk will write to Roy Merrett (Darlington Borough Council's Planning Services Manager) about this. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

Councillor Schott left the meeting. Councillor Brian Jones left the meeting.

15.3 The Council approved the following planning application without comment:-

- 10/00305/FUL Erection of a two-storey rear extension at Thorn House, Middleton Road.

Councillor Schott re-joined the meeting.

Councillor Vickers left the meeting.

15.4 The Council approved the following planning application without comment:-

- 10/00326/FUL Change of use of a strip of land on Newton Grange Farm to form an access track to the children's play area from Stockton Road.

Councillor Vickers re-joined the meeting.

16. Payments

The Council approved the following payment:-

- Temporary Event Notice (TEN) for the Sadberge Summer Festival £21.00

17. Inspection tour of Parish Council land and property

17.1 It was agreed that the annual inspection tour of Parish Council land and property will take place at the beginning of the next meeting.

17.2 The Clerk will invite Carol Carter to attend the tour. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

18. Correspondence

The Council noted the following correspondence:-

18.1 Arriva's County Durham & Darlington Bus Update for May 2010.

18.2 Letter about the Darlington Cycle Challenge.

19. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday 6th July 2010.

The first item on the agenda will be the inspection tour of Parish Council land and property. Meet at the brick bus shelter by the village green. The remainder of the meeting will be held in Sadberge Village Hall.

Alastair Mackenzie
Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14th JUNE 2010

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

Signed: Councillor M Scaife _____ Date _____