

# SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

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## **Minutes of the meeting held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2010 in Sadberge Village Hall**

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

**In attendance:** Councillor Brian Jones Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

### **1. Inspection tour of Sadberge Parish Council land and property**

- 1.1 The inspection was carried out by Councillors Scaife, Best, Glew and Vickers, accompanied by the Clerk.
- 1.2 See the checklist attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Heywood and Schott, and the reasons for their absence were approved.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

### **4. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on 14-Jun-2010 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

### **5. Community compost facility**

- 5.1 The Parish Council considered a proposal to create a simple community composting facility in Town Farm Field. It is now possible to get an exemption from the need to obtain a waste treatment licence for such facilities, and Darlington Borough Council is willing to grant the Parish Council a licence to install and operate such a facility.
- 5.2 The following points were made during the discussion:-
  - Five or six local residents have expressed verbal support for the proposed facility.
  - One local household has objected to the proposal.
  - Issues are:-
    - Will the facility be large enough to be worthwhile?
    - How will the facility be managed?
    - Who will be allowed to deposit material into the facility, and who will be allowed to take the resulting soil improver out of the facility?
    - Is this the right location for a community composting facility, or would it be better to situate it at the edge of the village?
- 5.3 After discussion, it was agreed to go ahead and set up the proposed community composting facility on a trial basis.
  - The facility will be managed and monitored by the Clerk, with help from local volunteers.
  - Initially, the Clerk will report back to each Parish Council meeting.
  - The facility will be for the use of Sadberge residents.
  - Commercial users will only be allowed to use the facility if they are given individual approval by the Parish Council.
  - Only non-woody garden waste – such as grass cuttings, dead plants, etc. – will be allowed. Kitchen waste will not be allowed, as this would be likely to attract vermin. The Clerk will

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make arrangements for shredded paper to be mixed in with the garden waste in appropriate quantities. *Note from the Clerk: Any collection, storage and addition of shredded paper will be done in a way that does not risk shredded paper being blown around the area.*

- A flyer will be sent out to inform Sadberge residents about the community composting facility and the rules governing its use before it is opened.
  - The rules on the use of the facility will also be displayed at the facility itself.
- 5.4 It was acknowledged that the Parish Council is relying on people to treat the facility properly, and that if people fail to do so then there may be problems including, for example, inappropriate material being deposited in the composting bays, excess material being deposited in the vicinity of the facility, etc.
- 5.5 It was agreed that if such problems arise then the Parish Council will take prompt action to address them, and that if it is not possible to resolve them within a short time-scale then the composting facility will be closed down and the composting bays and their contents will be removed.
- 5.6 In particular, it was agreed that prompt action will be taken if the facility attracts additional vermin or produces offensive smells.
- 5.7 The Clerk will obtain the necessary exemption from the Environment Agency and licence from Darlington Borough Council, and will arrange for the composting facility to be constructed  
**ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 5.8 The Clerk will draw up the rules governing the use of the community composting facility  
**ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 5.9 Councillor Scaife will inform residents of Tithe House, Richmond Cottages, Newbank and Mount Pleasant about the Parish Council's decision on this issue. **ACTION:** Councillor Scaife

## 6. Matters arising

- 6.1 There was no news about the tree planting and stump grinding on Sadberge village green.
- 6.2 There was no news about access to the playing field north of St. Andrew's Park.
- 6.3 There was no news about the map of the public footpaths around Sadberge.
- 6.4 The order for the diversion of Footpath No. 10 has been issued.
- 6.5 The 'green award' plate is now displayed in Sadberge Village Hall. Arrangements are being made to display the two certificates.
- 6.6 There was no further news about the 'chicken tunnel' at Cherry Tree Farm.
- 6.7 The Clerk will contact Yvonne Ramage again about the possibility of creating a footpath on the west side of Hill House Lane immediately to the north of Sadberge.  
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.
- 6.8 Darlington Borough Council has acknowledged receipt of the Parish Council's comments on the scope for the Accommodating Growth Development Plan Document.
- 6.9 There was no further news about dog fouling in Sadberge.
- 6.10 Councillor Scaife has spoken to the Street Scene Team Leader, Carol Carter, about the standard of grass cutting in Sadberge, and Councillor Brian Jones has spoken to the Head of Street Scene, Brian Graham. The standard of grass cutting is also an issue for other villages in the Borough of Darlington.  
The Street Scene Supervisor will be monitoring the grass cutting team's work.
- 6.11 Darlington Borough Council has not yet replied to the Parish Council's letter about the granting of planning permission for a dwelling house on the land near Laurel Terrace.

## 7. Northumbria in Bloom competition

- 7.1 The village is looking very attractive after all the work that has been done in preparation for the Northumbria in Bloom judging visit, and it should look even better by the time of the judging visit on Friday 16-Jul-2010. There has been a great deal of support from Sadberge residents, and positive comments from visitors to the village.
- 7.2 The land near Laurel Terrace has been completely transformed. The Parish Council thanked the volunteers who have done a tremendous amount of work on this project.  
The Clerk will compile a "before and after" portfolio of photographs.  
**ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 7.3 The Parish Council approved a payment of £151.80 for flowers, compost, etc. associated with Sadberge's entry for the Northumbria in Bloom competition.
- 7.4 The next meeting of the Sadberge in Bloom group will take place in Sadberge Village Hall at 7 p.m. on Thursday 8-Jul-2010.
- 7.5 The two hanging basket stands will be installed on the village green very shortly.  
Help will be needed to put up the hanging baskets and to keep them watered. Councillor Scaife will contact residents of nearby properties.  
**ACTION:** Councillor Scaife

## 8. Sadberge Summer Festival

- 8.1 Arrangements for the festival are in hand. A few more volunteers are needed.
- 8.2 Councillor Scaife is still waiting for final approval from the Public Event Safety Advisory Group (PESAG), which seems to be taking a long time to respond to communications.
- 8.3 Arrangements are being made to have a climbing wall – provided and manned by the Army Cadets – in Hampass.

## 9. North Villages PACT

- 9.1 Up to 16-Jun-2010, the Road Policing Unit had issued 16 endorsable fixed penalty tickets for speeding in Sadberge.
- 9.2 The next meeting of the North Villages Pact will take place in Brafferton Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 13-Jul-2010.

## 10. Community Speed Watch

- 10.1 Durham Constabulary has drawn up a protocol for the 'volunteer-only' Speed Watch session. The Clerk will distribute copies to the Sadberge Parish Councillors and, in consultation with Councillor Scaife, will communicate the Parish Council's comments to Durham Constabulary.  
**ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 10.2 The equipment for the 'volunteer-only' Speed Watch sessions is quite large and heavy. The Clerk will investigate ways of moving it around the village.
- 10.3 While participating in 'volunteer-only' Speed Watch sessions the volunteers will be acting on behalf of Sadberge Parish Council and will be under the supervision of the Clerk.  
It was agreed that people will only be able to participate in 'volunteer-only' Speed Watch sessions once they have been approved by the Parish Council. They will also need to be vetted by the police and go through appropriate training.
- 10.4 The Parish Council approved a list of ten volunteers for the Speed Watch sessions.  
The Clerk will arrange for the volunteers to go through the police vetting process.  
**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

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

- 11.1 After discussion, the Parish Council agreed to pay towards an additional day's work by the chainsaw carver to enable him to do a good job on the details of the carvings.  
The Clerk will place the order for the chainsaw carvings. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

- 11.2 The Parish Council agreed the following allocation of the money that had been set aside for a project to commemorate Sadberge's success in the 2008 Calor Village of the Year competition.

Contribution to the costs of the Northumbria in Bloom entry	£150
Community Speed Watch costs	£250
Chainsaw carvings on the village green near Tithe House	£1,250
Flower basket stands for the village green	£320
Community compost facility	£300
New notice board for the village green	£1,200
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Total	£3,470

*Note from the Clerk: The Parish Council is aware that the sum of the allocations exceeds the £3,000 that was set aside.*

## 12. Parish Council land and property

- 12.1 The Clerk will remove the suckers from the bottom of the tree on the main part of the village green. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 12.2 The Clerk will inform Phil Haynes that two of the new trees on the bank at the north edge of the village green are leaning over. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 12.3 The Clerk will inform the Street Scene Team that (a) the bollards between Pleasant View and the entrance to East Close are being obscured by long grass, (b) one of the bollards at the top of Chapel Row is leaning over, and (c) one of the bollards at the edge of the village green in front of the Old Post Office has been snapped off. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 12.4 The Clerk will contact Phil Haynes about (a) the stump grinding and tree planting on the village green, and (b) the low-hanging branches of the oak tree on the triangle of village green in the centre of the village. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 12.5 The Clerk will arrange to remove the posts that used to support the cherry trees on the village green in front of Mayfield House. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 12.6 The Clerk will ask Phil Haynes to check the stability of the trees on the east side of Hampass. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 12.7 Councillor Scaife will ask the Parochial Church Council to check the stability of the trees near the eastern edge of the churchyard. **ACTION:** Councillor Scaife

## 13. Wind farms near Sadberge

- 13.1 Darlington Borough Council has still to make a formal response to the Parish Council's request for an opportunity for the Clerk to present his findings on excess amplitude modulation (EAM) to the Planning Committee members. It is understood that the Clerk will not be given a separate opportunity to brief the Planning Committee members but that Sadberge Parish Council will be allowed to make an extended input (probably 10 minutes) to the Planning Committee meeting.
- 13.2 There was no news about when the Moor House planning application will go before the Planning Committee.  
*Note from the Clerk: Since the Parish Council meeting, Adrian Hobbs has indicated that the Moor House planning application will probably go before the Planning Committee in late August.*
- 13.3 There was no news about the proposed A1 Wind Farm near Mordon.
- 13.4 There was no news of the proposed wind farms at East and West Newbiggin.
- 13.5 There was no news about the activities of the Seven Parishes Action Group (SPAG).

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

- 14.1 There was a useful Rural Briefing Workshop on the Local Transport Plan on the evening of Thursday 17-Jun-2010. Councillor Brian Jones will send the workshop notes to the Clerk. **ACTION:** Councillor Brian Jones

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

Councillor Brian Jones was re-elected as Chair of the DAPC.

An organisation called "Litter Free Durham" is available to give talks on the problems and costs of litter.

#### 15. Internal audit

The Council reviewed the internal audit report for the year ended 31-Mar-2010.

The internal audit report did not raise any issues for the Council's attention.

#### 16. Payments

The Council approved the following payments:-

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|---|---------|
| • Changing the wording on the festival banner       | £16.00  |
| • Maintenance of the benches in and around Sadberge | £250.00 |

#### 17. Correspondence

The Council noted a letter from Ian Holme about the threat to the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) funding for Hurworth School. The Clerk will write a letter stating Sadberge Parish Council's support for the campaign to retain the funding for Hurworth School. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

#### 18. 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 Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010.

**Alastair Mackenzie**  
Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>th</sup> JULY 2010

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

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