SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 10th August 2010 in Sadberge Village Hall

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

Councillor Schott declared an interest in item 19 – Approval of the payment for the hanging basket stands.

3. **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on 6-Jul-2010 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

4. **Matters arising**

4.1 The Publication Scheme that was adopted by the Parish Council on [date] specifies information to be published on the Sadberge web site. The Clerk has put most of the relevant information on to the web site, and will add the remaining information – including the Councillors' names and phone numbers – within the next few days. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

4.2 There was no news about the tree planing in Sadberge. The Clerk will contact Phil Haynes again. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

4.3 Councillor Brian Jones reported that Dave McGaughey and Jenny Dixon are trying to arrange a meeting with Reiver Homes to discuss access to the playing field north of St. Andrew's Park.

4.4 Yvonne Ramage will add the footpaths to the map of the area Sadberge once the diversion of Footpath No. 10 has been finalised, which should be on Friday 13-Aug-2010. The Clerk will arrange for the map to be displayed on the west end of the brick bus shelter on the village green. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

Yvonne Ramage has offered to give a briefing to people volunteering to 'adopt' footpaths in the area around Sadberge.

4.5 Councillor Schott will arrange for the 'green award' certificates to be displayed in Sadberge Village Hall. **ACTION:** Councillor Schott

4.6 Yvonne Ramage has advised that Darlington Borough Council does not have the funds to buy a strip of land to make a footway along the west side of Hill House Lane immediately to the north of Sadberge. Also, it is unlikely that the Borough Council would grant permission for the removal of the hedgerow along Hill House Lane, and it is unlikely that English Heritage would permit the removal of the wall, which forms the boundary of the mediaeval village.

In the light of this information, it was decided to take no further action on this issue.

4.7 Northumbria Water has indicated that it has no objection in principle to some form of barrier being installed at the entrance to the lane leading to the sewage works north of Sadberge, and would be prepared to make a contribution to the costs.

Yvonne Ramage has advised that it would not be possible to install a gate (because the lane is a public right of way), but that a lockable bollard would be acceptable. The Borough Council would not contribute towards the costs.

There used to be a yellow bollard, but it was too heavy for Northumbria Water staff to move so it was removed.

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The Parish Council agreed to investigate the possibility of installing a lockable bollard at the entrance to the lane leading to the sewage works.

The Clerk will contact Northumbria Water to find out the maximum allowable weight of a bollard. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

Councillor Schott will provide a quote for a bollard. **ACTION:** Councillor Schott

The Clerk will find out the source of the lockable bollard at the entrance to Town Farm Field and will try to obtain a quote for a similar bollard. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

4.8 The Clerk has written to Phil Wilson MP to express the Parish Council's support for the campaign to reinstate the Building Schools for the Future funding for Hurworth School.

5. Community compost facility

5.1 The necessary licences have been obtained, and the composting facility has been partly built.

5.2 The facility was opened for use on Thursday 5th August 2010.

5.3 The Clerk will write to Ian Mitchell thanking him for donating the scaffolding boards. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

5.4 The Clerk will write to Dave Hardy thanking him for his advice and hands-on assistance with the construction of the composting facility. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

5.5 The Parish Council thanked the Clerk for his work on the community composting facility.

6. Sadberge Summer Festival on Saturday 17-Jul-2010

6.1 The festival was very successful. About 600 people attended, and the entertainment was very good.

6.2 The Parish Council thanked all the helpers and entertainers who had contributed to the success of the festival.

6.3 The next meeting of the Festival Committee will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 17-Aug-2010.

6.4 The Council approved the following payment:--

- Bouncy castle and bungee run £220.00

7. Northumbria in Bloom competition

7.1 The Northumbria in Bloom judges visited Sadberge on Friday 16-Jul-2010. They were looking for colourful flower displays, community involvement and a contribution to the environment. They said that the village had done very well for a first-time entrant and made some helpful suggestions about how the work could be continued.

7.2 The judges selected 3 East View to go forward to represent Sadberge in the 'best front garden' competition. Congratulations to Rob Chapman.

7.3 The Clerk will write to Mr. Tommy Lowther to thank him for his contribution towards the new 'central community garden'. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

7.4 The Northumbria in Bloom awards will be presented at a ceremony in the Oakwood Centre, Eaglescliffe on the morning of Monday 13-Sep-2010.

Councillor Scaife and the Clerk will attend the awards ceremony.

The members of the Sadberge in Bloom Group will also be invited to attend. **ACTION:** Councillor Scaife

8. Wind farms near Sadberge

8.1 It was agreed to object to the updated planning application (09/00741/FUL) for the construction of the Moor House wind farm, on the following grounds:-

- Commercial-scale wind turbines should not be situated amongst the settlements on the Tees Plain to the north-east of Darlington

- The Addendum to Arup's report on "Wind Farm Development and Landscape Capacity Studies: East Durham Limestone and Tees" states that *"overall the level of development proposed at [Moor House] exceeds the capacity of the landscape"*.
- No permission should be given for any wind farm on the Tees Plain until and unless Durham Tees Valley Airport makes a formal, public statement that it is satisfied that aircraft safety will not be compromised.
- There is no reliable assurance that noise from the proposed Moor House Wind Farm will not cause harm and annoyance to residents of individual properties and/or settlements in the surrounding countryside.

  In particular, the Government guidance in ETSU-R-97 takes no account of – and provides no protection against – the phenomenon of excess amplitude modulation. Work by a Dutch physicist has suggested that excess amplitude modulation occurs during periods of high wind shear, and the Clerk's analysis of wind speed and direction data from the Moor House monitoring mast has shown that there are frequent periods of very high wind shear over this part of the Tees Plain.
- There is no proper mechanism for addressing the issue of cumulative impact of wind farms in the area to the north-east of Darlington.

  Development of the Moor House Wind Farm in combination with <u>either</u> the A1 Wind Farm <u>or</u> the East Newbiggin Wind Farm would be contrary to the conclusions of Arup's Landscape Capacity Studies report.

8.2 The Clerk presented a proposed planning condition to protect residents from possible excess amplitude modulation of the noise from the proposed Moor House wind farm. This planning condition requires the wind farm operator to switch the wind farm into a low noise operating mode within 90 minutes when (a) an appointed person reports that the wind farm is generating a beating noise sufficiently loud to cause sleep disturbance at an occupied dwelling and (b) the atmospheric conditions are such that it is possible that excess amplitude modulation noise from the wind farm is affecting that dwelling.

It was agreed to ask Darlington Borough Council to impose this – or a similar – condition if planning permission is given for the Moor House wind farm.

8.3 The Moor House wind farm planning application will be considered by Darlington Borough Council's Planning Committee in mid-September at the earliest.

At the next Parish Council meeting the Clerk will present a draft presentation on potential noise problems – including excess amplitude modulation – associated with the proposed Moor House wind farm. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

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

8.5 There was no news of the proposed wind farms at East and West Newbiggin.

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

9. North Villages PACT

9.1 A meeting of the North Villages PACT took place in Brafferton Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 13-Jul-2010.

9.2 During the 6-week speed limit enforcement campaign in Sadberge, the Road Policing Unit issued 27 endorsable fixed penalty tickets and gave 7 verbal warnings.

9.3 Speeding in Sadberge is no longer a PACT priority, as this is being addressed by the introduction of the 'volunteer-only' Community Speed Watch sessions. However, PC Julian Brown will continue to do Speed Watch sessions in Sadberge on a monthly basis to support the 'volunteer-only' sessions.

9.4 The next meeting of the North Villages PACT will take place in Bishopton Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday 11-Aug-2010.

10. Community Speed Watch

10.1 The Sadberge volunteers are going through the police vetting process.

10.2 The Clerk will work with PC Carol Kuszynski to arrange a briefing session for the volunteers.
ACTION: A Mackenzie

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

11.1 Due to other work commitments, Tommy Craggs will probably not be able to start the chainsaw carvings on Sadberge village green until January 2011.

The Clerk will ask Tommy to go ahead with the work when he can.
ACTION: A Mackenzie

12. Parish Council land and property

12.1 The Clerk has still to remove the suckers from the bottom of the tree on the main part of the village green. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

12.2 The Clerk has sent an email to Phil Haynes about the two 'leaning' trees on the bank at the north edge of the village green are leaning over.

12.3 The Clerk has informed the Street Scene Team about the damaged bollards (a) at the top of Chapel Row, and (b) at the edge of the village green in front of the Old Post Office.

12.4 The Clerk has sent Phil Haynes an email asking when the new trees will be planted on the village green near Tithe House.

12.5 The Clerk has still 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 has sent an email to Phil Haynes asking him to check the stability of the trees on the east side of Hampass.

12.7 Councillor Scaife has still to ask the Parochial Church Council to check the stability of the trees near the eastern edge of the churchyard. **ACTION:** Councillor Scaife

13. Proposed closure of the St. Laurence Church in Middleton St. George

It was agreed that the Parish Council has no objection to the proposed closure of the Church of St. Laurence for public worship.

14. Darlington Borough Council spending reductions

The Clerk reported on what Darlington Borough Council is doing in response to reduced grants from Central Government.

- In the current financial year the Government has withdrawn £1m of grants to the Borough Council. In addition the Borough Council will not receive its anticipated £1.1m performance reward grant.
- The Government's emergency budget indicated that funding for Local Government may reduce by 25% over the next four years. This is a significantly larger reduction than the Borough Council had been planning for.
- The Borough Council's funding from Central Government may decrease by £22m per annum by 2014-15. This represents 20.5% of the Borough Council's current controllable budget.
- The financial challenge is by far the most significant that the Borough Council has ever faced.
- The Borough Council has adopted a new business model, which will mean significant changes in what it does, how it does it and who does it. There will be significant changes to the way that the Borough Council's organisational structure.
- Over the medium term the Borough Council plans to re-establish itself as a sustainable council serving the citizens of Darlington well. The journey to that new council will be very challenging.
- The Borough Council is planning to make £1.2m of savings in the 2010-11 financial year. Amongst other things, the plans include withdrawing the discretionary element of the bus pass scheme, withdrawing taxi vouchers, withdrawing the grant for the Ring a Ride service and reducing the traffic management budget,

15. Darlington Tree and Woodland Strategy

15.1 The Clerk gave an overview of Darlington Borough Council's draft Tree and Woodland Strategy.

15.2 The following points were made:-

- The Borough Council should retain the flexibility to remove trees that are inappropriate for their locations. Any trees removed should be replaced by more suitable species.
- It is not clear how the trees along the edge of Hampass fit into the categories used in the draft strategy.
- The strategy appears to use "trees on private land" to include trees on land owned by parish councils.
- It would be helpful if the strategy described how the Borough Council will help and support parish councils to care for their trees.

15.3 The Clerk will submit the Parish Council's comments in consultation with Councillor Scaife.
ACTION: A Mackenzie

16. 2011 Census

The next Census will take place on Sunday 27-Mar-2010. The Office of National Statistics would like parish councillors to help to promote the benefits of the Census to maximise the response rate, and has produced a Councillor Handbook to explain the Census and how councillors can help.

17. Insurance

The Council approved the renewal of the insurance policy arranged via Darlington Borough Council.

18. Planning

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

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

18.2 The Council noted the response from Darlington Borough Council's Development Manager, Roy Merrett) to the Parish Council's concerns about the granting of planning permission for the erection of a dwelling house on land near Laurel Terrace.

- The Planning Committee members considered the encroachment of the site beyond the village development limit to be "marginal and non-material".
- Although the Borough Council's present Conservation Officer did not support the proposed development, the previous Conservation Officer had supported the original proposal, and there had not been any material changes in the circumstances of the site since the original approval.
- The Borough Council's scheme of delegated powers does not provide for a parish council to be consulted about details governed by a planning condition. However, it would be possible for such details to be passed to the Parish Council on an 'information providing' basis.

18.3 After discussion, the Council took a vote on whether and how to comment on planning application 10/00203/FUL, which was for retrospective permission to demolish a pole barn and erect a bungalow annexe at Midway Farm, Sadberge Road, Middleton St. George.

The result of the vote was:-

- Object 3
- No comment 3

On the Chair's casting vote, it was decided to make no comment on this planning application.

18.4 After discussion the Council took a vote on whether and how to comment on planning application 10/00430/FUL, which was for the erection of dormer extensions to the front and rear of 4 Church View.

The result of the vote was:-

- Object 2
- Approve without comment 3
- Abstention 1

It was therefore decided to approve this planning application without comment.

19. Payments

Councillor Schott left the meeting.

The Council approved the following payment:-

- Hanging basket stands for the village green £317.25

Councillor Schott re-joined the meeting.

The Council approved the following payments:-

- Insurance premium. £174.04
- 'Roundup' to prepare the ground for the community composting facility £10.98
- Posts, etc. for the community composting facility £85.50

20. Correspondence

The Council noted a letter from National Energy Action inviting the Clerk to attend an event in Brafferton Village Hall to celebrate recent energy efficiency work funded by Banks Developments.

21. 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 7th September 2010.

Alastair Mackenzie
Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10th AUGUST 2010

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

Signed: Councillor M Scaife _____ Date _____