

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 21st December 2010 in Sadberge Village Hall

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

In attendance: Councillor Brian Jones Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

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 9-Nov-2010 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

- 4.1 There was no news about disabled access to the playing field north of St. Andrew's Park.
- 4.2 Northumbrian Water has modified the original bollard that used to be situated at the entrance to the lane leading to the sewage treatment works north of Sadberge, and will install once the weather improves.
- 4.3 Several parish councils have asked Darlington Borough Council to continue to provide paper copies of planning application documents. Roy Merrett is reviewing the situation.
- 4.4 The Clerk had produced and distributed a flyer informing local residents about the potential impacts of Darlington Borough Council's budget cuts. See item 8 below.
- 4.5 The map of the footpaths around Sadberge has been displayed on the end of the brick bus shelter. Water has got in under the lamination, and has smeared the title. The Clerk will investigate what can be done about this once the weather improves. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 4.6 The new notice board has arrived.
The Clerk will release the payment for the notice board once the board has been checked by Councillor Schott. **ACTION:** Councillor Schott / A Mackenzie

The costs of installing the notice board will be donated by a local resident.
- 4.7 Councillor Brian Jones will raise the issue of fly tipping at the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Committee meeting on Tuesday 4-Jan-2011. Fly tipping is a problem throughout the Borough. It was pointed out that a trailer has been left in the Middleton Road lay-by without any lights or warning bollards.
- 4.8 There has been no progress on the stump grinding and tree planting on the village green. The Clerk will contact Phil Haynes' manager to try to get some priority given to this work. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 4.9 The Christmas tree is up on the village green.
This year's tree is a bit larger than previous years', so the lights look slightly sparse. The arrangements for lighting the Christmas tree will be reviewed at a future meeting.
- 4.10 There was no news about the Northumbria in Bloom competition.
- 4.11 There have been no problems with the community composting facility.

/ continued

5. Vacancy on the Parish Council

It was agreed to co-opt Lee Tait as a Sadberge Parish Councillor.

The Clerk will contact Lee Tait to make the necessary arrangements.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

6. Problems caused by the heavy snow in November / December

6.1 Some residents of East Close have expressed concern about the fact that residents of other streets have been taking grit from the bin in East Close.

6.2 It was agreed that the Street Scene Team has been doing a good job of keeping the grit bins filled.

6.3 It was noted that grit is not effective in all circumstances; e.g. on deep snow where there are insufficient vehicle movements to mix the grit into the snow. The Clerk will try to find advice on how residents should use grit.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

6.4 At a future meeting the Parish Council will consider whether there are any locations where it would be useful to have additional grit bins.

7. Closure of the minor ailments clinic in Sadberge Village Hall

7.1 Felix House Surgery has replied to the Parish Council's letter about the closure of the minor ailments clinic in Sadberge. The Clerk will put a copy of the Felix House Surgery letter into the village hall.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

7.2 Some Sadberge residents have asked about the continuation of a minor ailments clinic in Long Newton. In fact, there is no minor ailments clinic in Long Newton. One of the doctors from the Felix House Surgery visits Long Newton to deliver prescriptions. (In Sadberge, the delivery of prescriptions is done by Arthur & Meg Sanders.)

8. Bus service

8.1 As part of its budget cuts, Darlington Borough Council is proposing to reduce the amount that it spends on subsidised bus services. The current idea is that a 'taxi bus' will shuttle between Neasham and Sadberge via Darlington Town Centre. (A 'taxi bus' is a scheduled bus service using a smaller vehicle.)

8.2 The Clerk reported that he had prepared and distributed a flyer about the impacts of Darlington Borough Council's proposed budget cuts. He had also offered to help Darlington Borough Council to understand what Sadberge residents need from a bus service, and had prepared a questionnaire to gather information about the journeys that Sadberge residents make by bus. The Parish Council approved the flyer and the questionnaire.

The Clerk will collate the results from the questionnaire and communicate them to the relevant Darlington Borough Council officers.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

8.3 The Clerk has had a meeting with Jane Saddington, the Felix House Surgery Practice Manager, to explore the possibility of setting up a "Sadberge session" at the surgery. In order for this to work, (a) the surgery would need to reserve appointments for Sadberge residents and (b) the supported taxi-bus would need to break off from its normal schedule to provide a shuttle service between Sadberge and the surgery.

The Parish Council supports the idea of setting up a "Sadberge session" at the Felix House Surgery.

The Clerk will continue to investigate the possibility of setting up such an arrangement.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

8.4 Councillor Brian Jones has suggested that the £30,000 from the developer of St. Andrew's Park should be held over until the 2011-12 financial year rather than used in 2010-11.

The Clerk will write to Darlington Borough Council expressing the Parish Council's support for this suggestion.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

9. Cost of Parish Council elections

- 9.1 As part of its budget cuts, Darlington Borough Council is considering the possibility of requiring parish councils to pay the administrative costs of parish council elections.
- 9.2 If the parish council elections in May 2011 were held separately from the Borough Council elections then the charge for a Sadberge Parish Council election in May 2011 would be £2,650. However, if the parish council elections were held on the same day as the Borough Council elections and a referendum on proportional representation then the parish councils would only need to pay one third of the administrative costs. There would be no charge if there was no need for a parish council election.
- 9.3 Councillor Best and the Clerk have both written to Darlington Borough Council objecting to the proposed charge.
- 9.4 Councillor Brian Jones pointed out that the costs of the Cockerton West by-election in July 2010 were paid by the Borough Council as a whole, not just by the residents of the Cockerton West ward.
- 9.5 The Clerk will write to Darlington Borough Council expressing the Parish Council's very strong objection to the proposed charge. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

10. Darlington Association of Parish Councils (DAPC)

- 10.1 There was a special DAPC meeting on Thursday 18-Nov-2010 to consider Darlington Borough Council's proposed changes to the supported bus services.
- 10.2 The Parish Council agreed in principle to make a contribution of £50 per year towards DAPC costs (including room hire, etc.)
- 10.3 The next DAPC meeting will take place in Darlington Town Hall at 6 p.m. on Tuesday 18-Jan-2011. The temporary Assistant Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary will be present.

Councillor Brian Jones left the meeting.

11. Sadberge Summer Festival

- 11.1 The Friends of Sadberge Festival made a donation of £150 towards the costs of the 2010 festival. This means that the costs of the festival were met from the following sources:-

Donation from the Friends of Sadberge Festival	£150.00
Excess donations held over from 2009	£285.00
Sadberge Parish Council funds	£443.27

Total	£878.27

- 11.2 The Parish Council approved the accounts of the Sadberge Summer Festival 2010. (See Appendix 1 to these minutes.)

12. Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC)

The Parish Council agreed to renew the Clerk's membership of the SLCC and approved the payment of the £61.00 subscription fee.

13. Budget for 2011 - 12

- 13.1 The Parish Council reviewed the expenditure versus budget for the financial year to date and agreed that the financial situation is satisfactory.
- 13.2 The forecast of expenditure for the period December 2010 - March 2011 (attached as Appendix 2 to these minutes) was approved.
- 13.3 After discussion, the budget for 2011 - 12 attached as Appendix 3 to these minutes was approved.
- 13.4 In line with the agreed budget, the precept for 2011 - 12 will be £1,900.
The Clerk will inform Darlington Borough Council. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

14. Wind farms near Sadberge

- 14.1 At a meeting on 10-Nov-2010, Darlington Borough Council's Planning Committee refused planning permission for the proposed Moor House wind farm.

Banks have the option to appeal against the refusal of planning permission, but they are also exploring a re-submission of the planning application with the number of turbines reduced to six. They have asked if they can attend the next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council in order to talk through things in more detail.

It was agreed that the Clerk will reply indicating that the Parish Council will be happy to discuss the issues with Banks, but the January meeting is not convenient for this discussion.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

- 14.2 The Clerk reported that he had suggested to the Seven Parishes Action Group (SPAG) that their current strategy of 'oppose all wind farms in this area' may not be the best way of achieving the 'least worst' outcome in terms of the number and locations of commercial-scale wind turbines that end up being constructed on the Tees Plain to the north-east of Darlington. After considering an alternative 'negotiate and influence' strategy, SPAG decided to retain their current strategy.
- 14.3 It was agreed that the Parish Council is concerned about the effectiveness of the 'oppose all wind farms' strategy.
- The Clerk will arrange a meeting between Sadberge Parish Councillors and SPAG Committee members to discuss the strategy regarding wind farms. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 14.4 It may be appropriate to review the Wind Farms Addendum to the Sadberge Parish Plan in the light of what has happened since the Addendum was adopted in December 2008. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
- 14.5 There was no news about the proposed A1 Wind Farm near Mordon.
- 14.6 There was a consultation session about the proposed Newbiggin Wind Farm in Sadberge Village Hall on Friday 19-Nov-2010. A planning application may be submitted in January 2011.

15. Darlington Local Development Framework – Accommodating Growth Development Plan Document

The Clerk reported on the relevant aspects of the Accommodating Growth Issues and Options document. It was agreed that there was no need to comment on this document.

16. Community Speed Watch

- 16.1 Speed Watch sessions have been suspended during the bad weather.
- 16.2 The Clerk and Councillor Brian Jones met Inspector Ken Cook and Michael Straugheir on Monday 13-Dec-2010 to discuss the way forward for the 'volunteer-only' Speed Watch initiative.
- It was agreed that the Clerk or Councillor Brian Jones can brief and authorise volunteers once those volunteers have been through the police vetting process. This will make it possible to activate a number of additional volunteers.
- 16.3 Graphs of the data from the Speed Watch sessions indicate that the Speed Watch activity is not bringing about any reduction in the percentage of vehicles speeding in the village.

17. North Villages PACT

The North Villages PACT that was due to take place in Sadberge Village Hall on Thursday 2-Dec-2010 was postponed because of a very low turnout, probably due to the bad weather.

18. Sadberge Energy Saving Project

- 18.1 The Parish Council acknowledged the receipt of £115.00 from the sale of the Eco-eye electricity monitors, etc.
- 18.2 The Climate Change Working Group is continuing its investigations into the possibility of setting up a community renewable energy programme for Sadberge.

19. Planning

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

- Granted 10/00631/DC Construction of a disabled access ramp with handrail and insertion of entrance doors at Sadberge Village Hall.

20. Procedure for dealing with issues that arise between Parish Council meetings

Discussion of this subject was deferred until a future meeting.

21. Complaints procedure

Discussion of this subject was deferred until a future meeting.

22. Payments

The Council approved the following payment:-

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| • Plywood backing for the map of the footpaths around Sadberge | £10.48 |
| • Room hire for Sadberge Parish Council meetings, etc. | £229.50 |
| • New notice board for the village green | £1,639.51 |

23. Correspondence

The Council noted the following correspondence:-

- Information about the training being offered by the County Durham & Cleveland County Training Partnership.
- Invitation to attend a Durham Police Authority stakeholder consultation event on Wednesday 1-Dec-2010.
- Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan documents.
- Two press releases from the Durham Police Authority.

24. 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 18th January 2011.

Note from the Clerk: This date will need to be changed, as it clashes with the DAPC meeting.

Alastair Mackenzie
Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21st DECEMBER 2010

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

Signed: Councillor S Best _____

Date _____