

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday 23rd August 2011 in Sadberge Village Hall

Present: Councillor Tate [Chair]
Councillors Heath, Glew and Schott

In attendance: Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

1. Inspection tour of Sadberge Parish Council land and property

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

2. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Best, Heywood and Vickers, 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 19-Jul-2011 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

5. Matters arising

- 5.1 Councillor Brian Jones has sent a letter to the residents of East Close and the immediately surrounding properties informing them about the problem with emergency vehicle access to East Close and asking them to park in a considerate manner.
- 5.2 There was no news about the issue of disabled access to the playing field north of St. Andrew's Park.
- 5.3 Some of the stump grinding on the village green has been done, but there are still two stumps on the village green in front of Mayfield House. The Clerk will ask Phil Haynes to arrange for these last two stumps to be ground out. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 5.4 The third Parish Council post-box has still to be installed. **ACTION:** Councillor Schott
- 5.5 The Festival Organiser has estimated that approximately 700 people attended the 2011 Sadberge Summer Festival.
A local resident had expressed concerns that cars parked partly on the pavement during the festival caused a safety hazard for children walking from the village hall to the village green. More will be done to prevent this from happening during future festivals.
The Festival Committee has proposed that the 2012 festival should take place on the first Saturday in July. The theme will be international to capture the interest in the Olympics.
The Parish Council agreed to hold a Sadberge Summer Festival in 2012. It was suggested that efforts should be made to pick a date that does not clash with too many other events.
The Parish Council approved the following payment:-
 - Road signs for the 2011 Sadberge Summer Festival £216.00
- 5.6 Sadberge Parish Council has joined the Cleveland Local Councils Association.
- 5.7 There was no news about Darlington Borough Council's budget cuts.

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6. Wind farms near Sadberge

6.1 The current situation regarding wind farms near Sadberge is as follows:-

- Banks Renewables' application for a 6-turbine wind farm at Moor House may go before Darlington Borough Council's Planning Committee in October 2011.
- Banks Renewables has filed an appeal against the refusal of planning permission for their proposed 10-turbine wind farm at Moor House. The Public Inquiry is scheduled to be held in the Dolphin Centre in Darlington, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 7-Feb-2012.
- There has been no further news about the proposed Newbiggin wind farm.
- E.ON has issued a Statement of Community Consultation about its proposed wind farm at The Isles. The document describes options for 29, 30 or 45 turbines.

6.2 Pure Renewable Energy has still not provided the requested noise and wind speed data relating to its proposed Newbiggin wind farm. It was pointed out that failure to provide this information would constitute grounds for a legal challenge to any decision to grant planning permission for the proposed wind farm. The Clerk will continue to try to obtain the data.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

6.3 The Clerk presented proposed wording for planning conditions to protect residents from excess amplitude modulation (EAM) noise from wind farms.

The Parish Council approved the proposed planning conditions and agreed to ask for these conditions to be attached to any planning permission that is granted for wind farms at Moor House and/or Newbiggin.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

6.4 The Parish Council's options for making an input to the Moor House appeal are as follows:-

- Darlington Borough Council will forward the Parish Council's correspondence on the matter directly to the Planning Inspectorate.
- The Parish Council can make an additional representation to the Planning Inspectorate. The deadline for such representations is 14-Sep-2011.
- A representative of the Parish Council can apply for "Rule 6 status" at the Public Inquiry. This would give the relevant person a more formal role in the inquiry, including access to copies of relevant documents and the right to cross-examine witnesses supporting the development.

It was pointed out that it would be better for a representative of the Seven Parishes Action Group (SPAG) to apply for Rule 6 status, since SPAG is the body co-ordinating the local communities' opposition to the proposed Moor House wind farm.

It was agreed that if a representative of SPAG applies for Rule 6 status then Sadberge Parish Council will support SPAG's inputs to the Moor House inquiry, but if SPAG decides not to apply for Rule 6 status then the Clerk will apply for Rule 6 status as a representative of Sadberge Parish Council.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

6.5 Representatives of Great Stainton have asked for Sadberge's support in opposing the proposed wind farm at The Isles. The Parish Council agreed that a message from Great Stainton will be included in the next issue of Sadberge Parish News, and that copies of Phil Wilson's petition against The Isles wind farm will be made available in Sadberge Village Hall.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

6.6 It was agreed that Sadberge Parish Council will join the Wind Farms Working Group that has been set up by the County Durham Association of Local Councils. The Clerk will attend working group meetings when possible.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

6.7 The Seven Parishes Action Group (SPAG) is considering whether to apply for Rule 6 status at the Moor House inquiry.

7. Speeding in Sadberge

7.1 There was no news about what Banks Renewables has been doing to address the issue of speeding in Sadberge.

7.2 The Clerk has still to make the arrangements for the next Community Speed Watch campaign.
ACTION: A Mackenzie

8. Northumbria in Bloom

8.1 The Sadberge Garden Group had provided a written report on its activities during the summer.

- Four areas of the Central Garden are now being cultivated as allotments. More areas are available.
- The Youth Council and some of their friends have planted plants in the churchyard and the Central Garden, and have spent time in the holidays weeding the bank.
- The first phase of creating a wild flower garden in Hampass is complete. Phase 2 will begin in the Autumn.
- The Northumbria in Bloom summer judging visit took place on Monday 11-Jul-2011, and the "It's Your Neighbourhood" judging visit for the Central Garden took place on Monday 8-Aug-2011. The judges commented on the attractive entrances to the village, some colourful and well-kept gardens and the general tidiness of the village. They did comment, however, that there were many weeds on pavements and at the roadside.

8.2 It was agreed that the next issue of Sadberge Parish News will include an article encouraging residents to use boiling water to keep pavements near their houses clear of weeds.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

8.3 The Clerk will write to Keith Blair to express the Parish Council's thanks for his donation of plants worth about £100.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

8.4 The Parish Council approved the following payment:-

- Compost and gravel £106.00

8.5 The Garden Group has suggested that the Parish Council could buy a petrol-driven strimmer for people to use around the village. The Clerk will investigate the options for funding such a purchase.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

8.6 The Garden Group has expressed concern about the quality of the grass cutting on the village green and other public areas in Sadberge. In some areas the very close cutting exposes bare soil, destroying the grass and allowing weeds such – particularly dandelions – to flourish.

The following points were made during the discussion of this item:-

- Some areas – such as the triangle of village green at the top of Chapel Row – appear to have been omitted from the most recent cut.
- The people doing the grass cutting appear to be under great pressure to do the job as quickly as possible.

The Clerk will write to Darlington Borough Council expressing the Parish Council's concerns about the quality of the grass cutting.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

8.7 It was agreed that Millie Scaife and Ernie Lowther will represent Sadberge at the Northumbria in Bloom presentation event in Saltburn on the morning of Tuesday 13-Sep-2011.

9. Community composting facility

The material in bay #4 of the community composting facility is ready for use as soil improver. The Clerk will put up a sign saying that Sadberge residents are welcome to take material for use in their own gardens, and this will also be included in the next issue of Sadberge Parish News.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

10. Hedges

Some of the hedges in Sadberge are obstructing the pavements.

The Clerk will ask Darlington Borough Council to cut the hedge along the northern edge of Town Farm field.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

The Clerk will ask the resident of Bloomfield House to cut his hedge along Middleton Road.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

18. Correspondence

18.1 The Durham Police Authority have invited representatives of parish councils to attend to a Stakeholder Workshop on the changes to policing governance in County Durham and Darlington. The workshop will take place in Durham Town Hall on the morning of Tuesday 30-Aug-2011. The Clerk will attend if possible. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

18.2 The Council noted the following correspondence:-

- Notice of the proposed closure of the Church of St. Laurence in Middleton St. George.

19. 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 13th September 2011.

Alastair Mackenzie
Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23rd AUGUST 2011

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

Signed: Councillor L Tate _____

Date _____