

# SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the meeting held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015 in Sadberge Village Hall

**Present:** Councillors Heath, Best, Glew, Haywood and Vickers

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

### 1. Apologies

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

### 2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

### 6. Decoration of the chainsaw carvings

Shortly before Christmas, knitted 'Santa outfits' appeared on the chainsaw carvings on the village green. Two local residents complained because they felt that the decorations were in poor taste and drew attention to the chainsaw carvings and their house, which is nearby.

After discussion, the Parish Council decided that this issue will be put on the agenda for the 2015 Sadberge Parish Meeting.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

### 3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 9-Dec-2014 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

### 4. Matters arising from previous meetings

- 4.1 Phil Haynes has still not contacted Councillor Best to discuss the safety of the self-seeded trees between Town Farm Field and Hampass. Councillor Brian Jones will contact Phil Haynes again.

**ACTION:** Councillor Brian Jones

The Clerk will check whether the Parish Council or Darlington Borough Council owns the land on which the trees are growing.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

- 4.2 The Planning Inspector has allowed Gladman Developments' appeal and has granted outline planning permission for a development of up to 250 houses on land adjacent to Sadberge Road, Middleton St. George.

A key factor was that Darlington Borough Council has not demonstrated a supply of deliverable housing sites to meet the needs over the next five years. In this situation, the Core Strategy document of the Darlington Local Plan says that development may be permitted in appropriate locations at the urban fringe and then within or adjacent to the larger villages.

*Note: The Core Strategy document identifies the 'larger villages' as Hurworth/Hurworth Place, Middleton St. George and Heighington.*

- 4.3 Some local authorities are investigating the feasibility of using DNA testing to identify dogs responsible for fouling public areas. However, this relies on creating a comprehensive DNA database of dogs in the relevant area.
- 4.4 The NE Ambulance Service has still to provide the information needed to support the application for subsidised public access defibrillators.

The Clerk is making enquiries to establish the extent to which the Parish Council's insurance would cover defibrillators in unlocked boxes in public places.

### 5. Christmas tree

The Christmas tree on the village green looked good.

*/ continued*

## 7. Vehicle activated speed sign

- 7.1 The mounting poles have been installed, and the speed sign has been deployed on Middleton Road since Monday 5-Jan-2015.
- 7.2 The Clerk will try to adjust the speed sign settings so that it picks up vehicles when they are a bit further from the sign. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 7.3 The Clerk will arrange to provide safe footing for the ladder at the Middleton Road and Hill House Lane poles. This may involve some cost; e.g. for paving slabs. **ACTION:** Alastair Mackenzie
- 7.4 It was agreed that the next two locations for the speed sign will be Darlington Road and then Norton Road (inbound).
- 7.5 It was decided to organise a small ceremony to mark the deployment of the speed sign. The local press will be invited to cover the ceremony and the Durham Police & Crime Commissioner and the Sadberge Ward Councillor will be invited to attend. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 8. Police & Crime Commissioner's consultation event

Councillor Brian Jones will be attending the consultation event in Durham on the afternoon of Friday 30-Jan-2015. He will be happy to give the Parish Council a report on the event.

## 9. Bonfire night fireworks display

- 9.1 The Clerk is making enquiries to establish the cost of including a bonfire and fireworks display in the Parish Council's annual insurance policy.
- 9.2 It was agreed to defer discussion of this topic until the next meeting.

## 10. Sadberge Neighbourhood Development Plan

- 10.1 There was a discussion about whether it is worth producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Sadberge. The following points were made during the discussion:
- The 2007 Sadberge Parish Plan and the review carried out in 2013 established that the majority of Sadberge residents do not want any significant development in or around Sadberge and do not want the Sadberge limits to development to be extended. <sup>[1]</sup>
  - Neighbourhood Development Plans are intended to promote additional development, not to block development. The Middleton St. George Neighbourhood Development Plan aims to agree acceptable development and thereby help to prevent unwanted development.
  - In the absence of a Sadberge Neighbourhood Development Plan, the policy for development in and around Sadberge is set by the Darlington Local Plan. This does not provide for any development outside the Sadberge limits to development, and does not propose any significant changes to the limits to development.
  - A Neighbourhood Development Plan that does not include any additional development – and simply re-states the policies in the Local Plan – might not pass the external examination.
  - A Neighbourhood Development Plan that includes significant additional development in or around Sadberge would be unlikely to be supported in the local referendum.
  - The process for producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan needs to include a high standard of consultation with local landowners and businesses. This would require further work to identify the owners of land in Sadberge Parish, which would put back the timetable for producing the Sadberge Neighbourhood Development Plan.
  - Apart from the drafts prepared by the Clerk, no-one has submitted any proposals for potential developments to be considered for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

[1] In the 2013 Parish Plan Review Questionnaires, the responses to the question "How many new houses should be built in and around Sadberge over the next ten years?" were as follows:-

100+ 4%	50 – 100 8%	20 – 50 15%	10 – 20 12%	Up to 10 14%	None 47%
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10.2 In the light of the discussion, it was agreed to re-consider whether to go ahead with the Sadberge Neighbourhood Development Plan. A decision will be made at the next meeting.

#### 11. Locks on removable posts

It was agreed to ask Darlington Borough Council's Street Scene Team to put locks on the removable posts at the entrances to Town Farm Field and Hampass. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

#### 12. Road sweeping

Darlington Borough Council sweeps the roads in Sadberge every two months. The next sweeping is scheduled for February 2015.

#### 13. Cyclists riding on pavements

The Parish Council noted a local resident's concerns about cyclists riding on pavements in Sadberge.

#### 14. Heavy goods vehicles

Anyone with specific information about heavy goods vehicles going through the 'plug' 7.5 tonne weight restriction on Hill House Lane should contact Councillor Brian Jones.

#### 15. North Villages PACT

15.1 The current PACT priorities are (i) large vehicles attempting to cross the bridge at Bishopton Mill and (ii) speeding in Great Stainton.

15.2 The next PACT meeting will take place in Bishopton Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday 14-Jan-2015.

#### 16. Darlington Association of Parish Councils (DAPC)

It was decided not to make a financial contribution to DAPC at present.

#### 17. Tees Valley Combined Authority

The five local councils in the Tees Valley are proposing to set up a Tees Valley Combined Authority to take responsibility on creating economic growth and new jobs. It was decided not comment on this proposal.

#### 18. Payments

The following payments were approved:-

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| • Christmas tree                                 | £130.00 |
| • Room hire in Sadberge Village Hall during 2014 | £157.50 |

#### 19. Agenda items for the next meeting

The following agenda item was proposed for the next meeting:-

- Footpath beside Middleton Road between Sadberge Village and the A66 underpass

#### 20. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 3-Feb-2015.

**Alastair Mackenzie**  
Clerk to Sadberge Parish Council

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2015.

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

Signed: Councillor L Tate \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_