

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 7th April 2015 in Sadberge Village Hall

Present: Councillors Tate, Best, Heath, Heywood, Schott and Vickers

In attendance: Councillor Brian Jones Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

1. Apologies

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

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 3-Mar-2015 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from previous meetings

4.1 Darlington Borough Council's Senior Arboricultural Officer, Phil Haynes, has looked at the self-seeded trees between Hampass and Town Farm Field and has said that he has no concerns about them.

4.2 The Clerk presented an analysis of the data gathered by the vehicle activated speed sign. The highest incidence of vehicles travelling at more than 40 mph is on Middleton Road on Friday afternoons.

The Clerk has still to arrange safe footing for the ladder at the mounting pole on Hill House Lane.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

The Clerk will invite the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner, Ron Hogg, to attend a ceremony on the morning of Friday 17-Apr-2015 to mark the deployment of the speed sign.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

The speed sign is currently on Darlington Road (inbound). Its next two locations will be Norton Road (inbound) and then either Hill House Lane (inbound) or Middleton Road (outbound).

4.3 The Northumbria in Bloom judges will be visiting Sadberge on Monday 13-Apr-2015.

4.4 The Clerk reported that the regulations do say that when a water company is disposing of land it has to consider the possibility of increasing the value of the land by obtaining planning permission.

There was no news about Northumbrian Water's proposal to apply for planning permission to build houses on the old reservoir site near Sadberge.

The Clerk has written to Darlington Borough Council's Place Strategy Manager, Steve Petch, expressing the Parish Council's concern about the Borough Council's inability to demonstrate that it has a five-year supply of sites to meet objectively assessed housing needs, and the consequent weakening of the Borough Council's ability to protect local communities from unwanted and inappropriate development. In his reply, Steve Petch said that:-

- Changes to Government policy since the Darlington Local Development Framework Core Strategy was adopted mean that housing targets based on Regional Spatial Strategies are now being found to be out of date.
- Although the Gladman appeal decision does weaken some aspects of the Borough Council's planning policy, it does not leave a complete policy vacuum.
- The Borough Council expects to have established its objectively assessed housing need (OAN) by this summer. It is also updating its Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA).

It was pointed out that Middleton St. George councillors had warned the Borough Council that it needed to check its housing needs assessment before the Gladman appeal hearing.

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- 4.5 The Clerk has written to Darlington Borough Council's Director for Highways, Dave Winstanley, asking him to improve the condition of the footpath beside Middleton Road to the south of Sadberge. One of the conditions attached to the planning consent for the construction of four houses at Lea Close is that the developer provides "a connection from the site to the existing footway network in Sadberge".
- 4.6 The Clerk has written to Darlington Borough Council's Traffic Management and Road Safety Manager, Andy Casey, asking him to consider prohibiting right turns from the north-west end of the small road along the left hand side of the triangle of village green.

5. Banking arrangements

- 5.1 The Clerk has managed to get Barclays Bank to close the Parish Council's Business Saver Account and transfer the funds to the Community Account.
- 5.2 The Parish Council's bank mandate needs to be updated. It was agreed to do this after the election in May. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 5.3 It may be possible to arrange for the Clerk to have online access to view statements and transactions. It may also be possible to arrange for the Clerk to be able to set up BACS payments which would then need to be authorised by two parish councillors.

6. Accounts and Annual Report for 2014-15

- 6.1 The Clerk presented draft accounts for the financial year ending 31-Mar-2015. It will not be possible to finalise the accounts until the Clerk has received the bank statement for the period up to 31-Mar-2015.
- 6.2 The Clerk is in the process of updating the Register of Assets.

7. Publication scheme

New transparency requirements have been introduced for parish councils with an annual turnover of up to £25,000. This includes a requirement to publish specified information on a web site. The Clerk will review the Parish Council's publication scheme in the light of the new requirements and make recommendations at the next meeting. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

8. Bonfire Night fireworks display

- 8.1 The Clerk presented a draft remit for the Bonfire Night Organiser. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
- 8.2 Councillor Tate will discuss the draft remit with the people likely to be involved in running the event. **ACTION:** Councillor Tate

9. Sadberge Summer Festival

- 9.1 It was agreed that there will be a Sadberge Summer Festival this year, with Cynthia Pinnock continuing in the role of Festival Organiser.
- 9.2 The festival will take place on Saturday 20-Jun-2015.

10. Public access defibrillators

- 10.1 The defibrillators and cabinets have arrived.
- 10.2 Arrangements are being made to install one cabinet on the front wall of the village hall.
- 10.3 Darlington Borough Council's Street Lighting Manager, Martin Clarkson, is visiting Sadberge on Friday 10-Apr-2015 to discuss the request to provide an electrical power supply from the lamp post on the triangle of village green in the centre of Sadberge.
- 10.4 It was suggested that it might be possible to install one defibrillator in the telephone box in the middle of the village. The Clerk will check the practicalities. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 10.5 As part of the arrangement with the British Heart Foundation, the Clerk will organise defibrillator awareness and CPR training sessions. The Sadberge Village Hall Association Management Committee has agreed to waive the room hire charges for these sessions. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

11. Maintenance of the St. Andrew' Churchyard

In response to a request from the Sadberge Parochial Church Council (PCC), the Parish Council decided to make a donation of £500 towards the cost of maintaining the St. Andrew's churchyard, and approved the relevant payment.

12. Maintenance of the railings around the main part of the village green

Councillor Schott will provide a cost for painting the railings around the main part of the village green.

ACTION: Councillor Schott

13. Damaged concrete post opposite the Buck Inn

13.1 The concrete post at the end of the section of fencing in front of Richmond Cottages has been damaged, presumably by a vehicle. It will be necessary to replace the post and a section of metal tubing.

13.2 Councillor Schott will provide a cost for doing the necessary repair.

ACTION: Councillor Schott

13.3 The Clerk will contact Darlington Borough Council's Street Scene Team to ask for advice on how to get the post repaired.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

14. Flag on the village green

14.1 New arrangements need to be made to manage the flag pole on the village green. This will include flying the Union flag on appropriate occasions.

14.2 The flag is in poor condition, and the flag pole itself needs some repair work.

14.3 Dave Lazenby volunteered to take responsibility for the flag pole and the associated equipment. He and the Clerk will put together recommendations about how the flag pole should be managed and what needs to be done to repair or replace the flag pole and flag.

ACTION: D Lazenby / A Mackenzie

15. Blocked drain

A blocked drain on Stockton Road is causing water to run all the way down Stockton Road and cause flooding at the bend near the entrance to the old A66. The Clerk will ask Darlington Borough Council's Street Scene Team to clear the drain.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

16. Planning

16.1 The following planning application was approved without comment.

- 15/00103/FUL Installation of 6 dormer windows to the side elevations, demolition of existing outbuildings and erection of a detached triple garage at The Kennels, Sadberge Road, Middleton St. George.

16.2 The Parish Council noted that an application had been made for prior approval for the erection of an agricultural storage building.

Note from the Clerk: The application is for a storage building at Spring House Farm, Sadberge Road, Middleton St. George.

17. Wind farms near Sadberge

Banks Renewables has indicated that there may be news about the Moor House wind farm within a couple of weeks, and that representatives of Banks Renewables may wish to attend the Parish Council's May meeting. It was agreed to invite representatives of Banks Renewables to attend the Sadberge Parish Meeting.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

18. North Villages PACT

18.1 The main issue discussed at the PACT meeting in Sadberge Village Hall on Wednesday 25-Mar-2015 was parking in Norton Crescent and St. Andrew's Park.

Councillor Brian Jones is going to meet representatives of Durham Constabulary and Darlington Borough Council's Highways Department for a site visit to discuss the problems.

A Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) has given warning letters to the owners of two vehicles that had been photographed parked in inappropriate locations.

18.2 The next PACT meeting will take place in Whessoe Parish Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 21-Apr-2015.

19. Sadberge Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of Sadberge Parish Council

19.1 It was agreed that the Sadberge Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of Sadberge Parish Council (which are often jointly referred to as the "Parish Council AGM" will be held on the evening of Tuesday 12-May-2015.

The Parish Meeting will start at 6 p.m., and the Annual Meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held at 7 p.m. after the conclusion of the Parish Meeting.

19.2 The Clerk will send out a flyer informing Sadberge residents about the Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of Sadberge Parish Council. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

20. Payments

The Parish Council approved the following payments:-

- Defibrillator cabinets £1,296.00
- Bonfire Night event insurance £206.70

21. Agenda items for the next meeting

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

- The condition of the chainsaw carvings on the village green.
- Hedges on Middleton Road.

22. Date of the next meeting

The Annual Meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held at in Sadberge Village Hall immediately after the conclusion of the Parish Meeting on Tuesday 12-May-2015.

Alastair Mackenzie
Clerk to Sadberge Parish Council

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7th APRIL 2015.

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

Signed: Councillor L Tate _____ Date _____