

# SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the meeting held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in Sadberge Village Hall

**Present:** Councillors Tate, Heath, Heywood, Lazenby, Schott and Smith.

**In attendance:** Ward Councillors Brian Jones and Doris Jones  
Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk  
David Elmer – Bonfire Night Organiser (Item 6)

### 1. Apologies

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

There were apologies from Ward Councillor Steve York.

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

Councillors Schott and Tate declared an interest in item 4.2 – Planning application 15/00918/FUL.

Councillors Lazenby, Schott and Smith and the Clerk declared an interest in item 9 – Sadberge Village Hall.

### 6. Bonfire Night event

6.1 It was agreed that the Bonfire Night event on Thursday 5-Nov-2015 was a really excellent event. The Parish Council thanked the Bonfire Night Organiser, David Elmer, for all his work in organising the event.

6.2 The event was advertised in the Northern Echo, and was the only fireworks display taking place in the Darlington area on 5-Nov-2015. This could have led to serious problems with too many people coming to the event. A firework display in Bishop Auckland experienced problems due to overcrowding.

It may be possible to make future events “Sadberge residents only” with entry by ticket. The Clerk will put together a proposal on how this could be done.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

6.3 The Parish Council approved the following payment:-

- Bonfire Night event safety equipment £234.01

### 3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 6-Oct-2015 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

### 4. Planning

4.1 The Parish Council decide to object to planning application 15/00918/FUL, which is for the erection of three houses on land behind the Buck Inn, for the following reasons:-

- The proposed development is outside the Sadberge limits to development, and development should not be permitted in this location.
- The restricted access to the site means that it is not suitable for either construction work or for on-going residential use.
- The application site is not in a sustainable location for new housing, as Sadberge has no shop or school and the bus service only provides three trips per week into Darlington.
- The proposed development would compromise the future of the Buck Inn as a village pub.
- The proposed development would exacerbate the existing parking problems in the centre of the village.

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The Parish Council also raised the following issues for consideration by Darlington Borough Council's Planning Officers:-

- Is there sufficient access to infrastructure (e.g. sewage and other services) to support the proposed development?
- The labelling on the site plan is misleading. The Old Piggery is not to the east of the proposed development site, but to the north. It is believed that the land to the east of the proposed development site is owned by the applicant. What are his intentions for this land?

4.2 The Parish Council approved the following planning application without comment:-

- 15/0898/FUL Construction of a caravan repair workshop at the Ivanhoe Service Station.

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

- Granted 15/00892/FUL Erection of a stable block at High Meadows, Middleton Road.

## 5. Speeding in Sadberge

5.1 The Clerk reported on an exchange of emails with Paul Emerson, Durham Constabulary's Traffic Management Officer. In summary:-

- The safe footing is now in place at the foot of the mounting pole on Hill House Lane, and the sign has done a two-week session in this location. The 85th percentile speed was 36.2 mph.
- Analysis of the data from Middleton Road has shown that (a) there are specific times – e.g. example, between about 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. on weekday mornings – when there are significant levels of traffic and the 85th percentile speeds are consistently above 35 mph, and (b) the overall 85th percentile speed is being pulled down by the weekday evening rush hours, when the very high volume of traffic – with the queue of vehicles at the central crossroads often extending down the hill to the speed sign's position – means that it is impossible for drivers to come into the village along Middleton Road at high speeds. Since the 85th percentile speed is based on vehicle counts, these high numbers of slow-moving vehicles during the rush hour have a significant effect on the overall 85th percentile speed.
- Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) guidelines state that prosecutions for speeding should commence at "10% plus 2 mph" above the speed limit; i.e. above 35 mph in a 30 mph zone.
- Durham Constabulary's policy is to commence additional enforcement in locations in which the 85th percentile speed is above the ACPO guideline threshold for prosecution.
- In line with the Community Speed Watch protocol, the data from the speed sign should be analysed and presented at the local PACT meeting, which may decide to make speeding in the relevant location a PACT priority.

5.2 It was agreed that:-

- The Clerk will calculate the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed on Middleton Road excluding weekday rush hours. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- The Clerk will present the data at the PACT meeting on Thursday 26-Nov-2015 and request that speeding in Sadberge is made a PACT priority. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 7. Recognition of retired Parish Councillors

7.1 After discussion, it was agreed to buy a new bench to replace the existing one near the phone box in the middle of the village. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

7.2 The individual Parish Councillors and the Clerk will contribute the funding for a stainless steel plaque saying that the bench has been provided in recognition of long service to the Parish of Sadberge by Councillor Rennie Vickers.

7.3 Councillors Lazenby and Schott will install the new bench.

**ACTION:** Councillors Lazenby and Schott

7.4 The new bench will be stored in Councillor Smith's garage until it is installed.

## 8. Matters arising from previous meetings

8.1 There was no news about the trees between Town Farm Field and Hampass.

8.2 Following advice from their Planning Officers, the Darlington Borough Council Cabinet has accepted that, because the Borough Council cannot demonstrate a five-year supply of land to meet objectively assessed housing needs, none of its development policies relating to the supply of housing – including the settlement Limits to Development – can be considered up to date. In this situation the National Planning Policy presumption in favour of sustainable development applies, which means in practice that new housing development will have to be permitted unless there are site-specific or significant sustainability reasons indicating otherwise.

The objectively assessed housing need indicates that 9,900 new homes will be needed in the Borough of Darlington over the 20 years from 2016 to 2036. This equates to about 500 new homes every year. Achieving a five year supply of housing land will require most of the housing sites already identified within and on the edge of the main urban area plus additional sites elsewhere. Darlington Borough Council will need to work with landowners and builders to help bring forward the most suitable sites.

Darlington Borough Council Officers are stopping work on the Making and Growing Places Development Plan Document and starting the process of preparing a new Darlington Local Plan for 2016 – 2036.

8.3 There was no news about the proposed development on the site of the old reservoir adjacent to Sadberge.

8.4 Repairs have been carried out to the footpath in front of St. Andrew's Church.

8.5 Councillor Brian Jones has the new goal nets for the playing field behind St. Andrew's Park.

8.6 Malcolm Short has finished refurbishing the Sadberge plaque. It will be replaced on its post once Ernie Lowther returns from holiday.

8.7 After discussion it was agreed that Councillor Heath will order a 17' Christmas tree from Croft Quality Christmas Trees. The target delivery date is Friday 27-Nov-2015.

**ACTION:** Councillor Heath

Darlington Borough Council is not going to provide a Christmas tree recycling service this year. It was agreed to consider the possibility of the Parish Council providing a recycling service for Sadberge residents. The Clerk will contact the Darlington Rotary Club to explore the options and costs.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

8.8 There was nothing significant to report about the community composting facility.

8.9 Both defibrillators are now in their cabinets, one in the centre of the village opposite the brick bus shelter and the other on the front of the village hall.

Two defibrillator awareness sessions have been held.

8.10 There was no news about the 2016 Sadberge Summer Festival.

8.11 The Clerk has submitted Sadberge's entry for the 2016 Northumbria in Bloom competiion.

8.12 There was no news about the bronze sculptures.

## 7. Sadberge Village Hall

The Sadberge Village Hall Association (SVHA) leases the village from the Church (specifically, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the Durham Diocesan Board of Finance). The current lease runs out in 2018, and discussions are under way to try to agree a new lease.

One potential difficulty is that the Church needs to engage a solicitor to draw up the lease, and this will cost about £1,000. The PCC has no funds for this, and the Church is asking the SVHA to pay. The SVHA Management Committee does not believe that it is normal or right for a Landlord to require the Tenant to pay for the Landlord's legal advice, and this may become a sticking point.

Councillors Lazenby, Schott and Smith and the Clerk left the meeting.

Ward Councillor Brian Jones left the meeting.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would consider providing up to £1,000 to cover the legal costs involved in drawing up a new lease agreement, subject to the condition that the process results in a satisfactory – and long term – lease agreement.

Councillors Lazenby, Schott and Smith, Ward Councillor Brian Jones and the Clerk re-joined the meeting.

## 8. Budget for 2016-17

- 8.13 The Clerk presented an update of the Parish Council's expenditure versus budget for the financial year to date and an updated forecast of the expenditure during the remainder of the financial year.
- 8.14 The budget options were discussed.
- 8.15 The Clerk will draw up a draft budget for 2016-17 and present it for the Parish Council's consideration at the next meeting. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 9. Publication scheme

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has issued a Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities. This code, which took effect from 1-Jul-2015, specifies information that smaller authorities have to publish on a free-to-access web site. The Clerk will arrange for the necessary information to be made available on the Sadberge web site. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

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

Councillors Tate and Lazenby and the Clerk attended the DAPC meeting on Wednesday 14-Oct-2015. Subjects discussed included the changes being made to parish boundaries following the Community Governance Review, planning issues (see item 8.2 above), issues with speeding, a possible Parish Charter on interactions between Darlington Borough Council and the parish councils, and the problems caused when the Borough Council makes the precept payment before the end of the preceding financial year.

## 11. Cleveland Local Councils Association (CLCA)

The Parish Council will not be represented at the CLCA meeting in Loftus on Wednesday 25-Nov-2015.

## 12. North Villages PACT

- 12.1 There was no report from the PACT meeting in Bishopton Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday 29-Oct-2015
- 12.2 The next PACT meeting will take place in Sadberge Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday 26-Nov-2015.

## 13. Payments

The Parish Council approved the following payments:-

- Defibrillator power supply £96.00
- Northumbria in Bloom 2016 entry fee £45.00

## 14. Agenda items for the next meeting

No agenda items were proposed for the next meeting.

## 15. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held at 6:45 p.m. on Tuesday 8-Dec-2015.

**Alastair Mackenzie**  
**Clerk to Sadberge Parish Council**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2015.

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

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_