

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 6:45 p.m. on Tuesday 12th April 2016 in Sadberge Village Hall

Present: Councillors Tate, Best, Haywood, Heath, Lazenby, Schott and Smith.

In attendance: Councillor Brian Jones Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

1. Apologies

There were no apologies from Sadberge Parish Councillors.

There were apologies from Ward Councillors Doris Jones and Steve York.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

In the minutes of the meeting on 8-Mar-2016, section 14.3 should have given John Anderson's job title as "Darlington Borough Council's Assistant Director for Economic Initiatives". With this correction, the minutes 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 stated in writing that he has no concerns about the safety of the trees between Hampass and Town Farm Field.

Darlington Borough Council's Assistant Director for Community Services, Ian Thompson, has said in an email that "*Phil Haynes, the Council's Arboricultural Officer has inspected these trees on a number of occasions recently*" and that "*in Phil's professional opinion the trees are safe and do not require any work, therefore the Council will not be undertaking any work or removing the trees in the near future*".

After discussion, the Parish Council decided to get a professional arborist to provide a written report on whether the trees pose a hazard. Councillor Best will obtain quotes for this, and the Clerk will place an order provided that the cost is within the budget set by the Parish Council.

ACTION: Councillor Best / A Mackenzie

- 4.2 Darlington Borough Council's Planning Applications Committee has discussed an outline planning application to build a doctor's surgery and up to 26 houses on land adjacent to Yarm Road in Middleton St. George, but did not make a decision.
- 4.3 There was no news about the proposed development on the site of the old reservoir adjacent to Sadberge.
- 4.4 A revised planning application has been submitted for the erection of three houses on land behind the Buck Inn. The only change was a minor modification to the design of the three houses.
- 4.5 There was no news about wind farms near Sadberge.
- 4.6 The Buck Inn – including the building, the car park and the former beer garden and children's play area – has been listed as an Asset of Community Value.
- 4.7 Councillor Tate has provided Barclays Bank with proof of his address, so the updating of the Parish Council's banking arrangements is now complete.
- 4.8 The vehicle activated speed sign is currently deployed on Norton Road. Durham Constabulary's safety camera van did a session on Middleton Road on Sunday 10-Apr-2016.
- 4.9 The Reverend Mark East has signed the licence for the use of the village green for an open air service on Thursday 5-May-2016.
- 4.10 The Parish Council confirmed its preferred location for a dog dirt bin on Norton Road, adjacent to the cut-through from Norton Road to Dale Road. The Clerk will ask Darlington Borough Council to move the dog dirt bin from the entrance to the sewage works north of Sadberge to the location on Norton Road.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

/ continued

A local resident has expressed concern about inconsistent emptying of litter bins in Sadberge. Councillor Brian Jones has spoken to the Street Scene Team Leader about this.

- 4.11 On the issue of air pollution from vehicle exhausts during rush hours in Sadberge, Darlington Borough Council's Principal Environmental Health Officer (Pollution), Carol Whelan, has said that *"Air quality in Darlington is meeting the national air quality objectives and is generally good"*, that *"analysis of air monitoring data for Darlington has shown levels fall mostly within the low index band where effects are unlikely to be noticed even by individuals who know they are sensitive to air pollutants"* and that *"I am confident that levels in Sadberge will be complying with the air quality objectives and therefore will be unable to agree to any request to carry out air quality monitoring"*.

The Clerk presented some preliminary information about options for the Parish Council to do its own air quality monitoring. He will continue to investigate the options and costs, and will report back at a future meeting.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

- 4.12 The people who are organising the refurbishment of Cleveland View – the unoccupied cottage on Middleton Road adjacent to its junction with Church Lane – had sent an email explaining the work that is being carried out. As advised by a structural engineer, they have had the front and rear walls tied together with steelwork to prevent them from spreading.

5. The Queen's 90th birthday celebrations

- 5.1 Northumbrian Water has agreed to allow a working party to go on to the old reservoir site to light the Sadberge beacon on Thursday 21-Apr-2016 as part of the celebrations of the Queen's 90th birthday, but has still to send the Clerk a copy of the licence. The Clerk will contact Northumbrian Water again.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

- 5.2 Northumbrian Water is carrying out works to (a) improve the condition of the path between the site entrance and the beacon and (b) repair the fencing around the top of the reservoir.

6. New bench

- 6.1 It was decided to defer a decision about a new bench until a future meeting.

- 6.2 Councillor Schott will provide a quote for installing a new seat around the oak tree on the triangle of village green in the centre of the village.

ACTION: Councillor Schott

7. Accounts and Annual Report for 2015-16

- 7.1 The Clerk has still to finish updating the Register of Assets. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

- 7.2 The Clerk presented an incomplete draft of the accounts for the year ended 31-Mar-2016.

- 7.3 The Clerk will arrange for the internal audit to be carried out.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

8. Insurance

- 8.1 The Parish Council approved the insurance renewal form that had been prepared by the Clerk.

- 8.2 Darlington Borough Council's Finance Officer – Risk and Insurance, Jeff Stephenson, expects further information about the parish councils' group insurance scheme to be available within the next few weeks.

9. Sadberge Summer Festival

- 9.1 The Parish Council agreed to organise a festival this summer.

- 9.2 The Parish Council confirmed that the Festival Organiser has the authority to organise the 2016 Sadberge Summer Festival on behalf of the Council, subject to the budget set by the Parish Council.

10. Infrastructure in and around Sadberge

- 10.1 The Clerk presented photographs of the footpath beside Middleton Road south of the village. The surface is rough, but it is unlikely that Darlington Borough Council would be willing to do any more work on it. The Parish Council agreed to take no further action on this issue at present.

10.2 The Clerk has asked Darlington Borough Council's Street Scene team to clear out several drains on Middleton Road. Councillor Brian Jones will contact the Street Scene Team Leader about this.

ACTION: Councillor Brian Jones

10.3 A local resident has asked Darlington Borough Council to do something about flooding at the bend on Stockton Road near its junction with the A66. The Clerk will contact the Street Scene Team Leader about this.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

10.4 A local resident has asked Darlington Borough Council to do something about a partly demolished lamp post on Stockton Road at the bend near its junction with the A66. The Clerk will contact the Street Scene Team Leader about this.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

11. Caravan at Wayside on Hill House Lane north of Sadberge Village

The caravan has been removed from Wayside on Hill House Lane.

12. Darlington Association of Parish Councils (DAPC)

12.1 Councillors Tate and Smith attended the extra DAPC meeting held on Wednesday 16-Mar-2016.

12.2 Darlington Borough Council's proposal to discontinue passing on Council Tax Support Grant funding to parish councils will result in £12,500 being withheld from parish councils.

12.3 There is concern about reduction of services such as grass cutting.

13. Council Tax Support Grant funding

The Parish Council noted that Darlington Borough Council is proposing to discontinue passing on Council Tax Support Grant funding to parish councils.

14. Changes to parish council involvement in planning applications

The Clerk has written to John Anderson, Darlington Borough Council's Assistant Director for Economic Initiatives, to express the Parish Council's objection to his decision to stop sending planning documents to parish councils

15. Darlington Borough Council's budget

The Parish Council considered some of Darlington Borough Council's proposals to reduce its expenditure. It was decided to object to the withdrawal of the mobile library, which provides a valuable service to rural communities, particularly those with limited bus services.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

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

16.1 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 Wednesday 11-May-2016.

Note from the Clerk: Due to a clash with another booking at the village hall, the date for these meetings was subsequently changed to Wednesday 4-May-2016.

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

16.3 The Clerk will arrange to provide tea, coffee and biscuits. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

17. North Villages PACT

17.1 There was no report from the PACT meeting in Bishopton Village Hall on Thursday 24-Mar-2016.

17.2 It was noted that the next PACT meeting will be held in Sadberge Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday 28-Apr-2016.

18. Cleveland Local Councils Association (CLCA)

The Parish Council agreed to continue its membership of the CLCA and approved the payment of the £115.12 membership fee.

19. Social media

19.1 Nothing of interest has appeared on the Sadberge social media sites since the last meeting.

19.2 Councillor Smith will continue to monitor the social media. **ACTION:** Councillor Smith

20. Planning

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

- Granted 15/00719/FUL Enlargement of roof space (including raising the ridge height) and erection of a single storey extension to the rear at Lea Close, Middleton Road.

The Parish Council decided not to comment on the following planning application:-

- 16/00287/FUL Erection of a single storey extension to the existing annexe building at High Meadows, Middleton Road.

21. Agenda items for the next meeting

The following items were proposed for the next meeting:-

- Day of the week for future Parish Council meetings.

22. Date of the next meeting

The Annual Meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held at approximately 7 p.m. on Wednesday 11-May-2016, starting shortly after the conclusion of the Sadberge Parish Meeting.

Note from the Clerk: Due to a clash with another booking at the village hall, the date for the Annual Meeting of Sadberge Parish Council was subsequently changed to Wednesday 4-May-2016.

Alastair Mackenzie
Clerk to Sadberge Parish Council

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th APRIL 2016.

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

Signed: Councillor L Tate _____ Date _____