

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 14th June 2016 in Sadberge Village Hall

Present: Councillors Tate, Best, Lazenby, Schott and Smith

In attendance: Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

1. Apologies

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

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

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

3. Minutes of previous meetings

3.1 The minutes of the meeting on 4-May-2016 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

3.2 The minutes of the meeting on 25-May-2016 should have recorded that Councillor Smith was present. With that correction, the minutes were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from previous meetings

4.1 Although local arborists have said that they believe the trees between Town Farm Field and Hampass to be dangerous, they are reluctant to put that opinion in writing.

The Clerk will make an informal approach to Phil Haynes to ask him to have a look at one particular tree between Town Farm Field and Hampass. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

4.2 There was no news about development in and around Middleton St. George.

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

4.4 There was no news about the proposal to erect three houses on land behind the Buck Inn.

4.5 Durham Constabulary has carried out more speed enforcement activity in Sadberge.

4.6 The Clerk will check whether the dog dirt bin has been moved from the entrance to the sewage treatment works north of Sadberge to the south-east side of Norton Road just inside the 30 mph signs. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

4.7 There was no news about the partly demolished lam post on Stockton Road at the bend near its junction with the A66.

4.8 There was nothing significant to report about Sadberge-related postings on social media.

5. Insurance

5.1 The group insurance scheme organised by Darlington Borough Council is continuing for 2016-17.

5.2 The Parish Council approved the payment of the insurance premium (£440.70).

6. Accounts and Annual Report for 2015-16

6.1 The Parish Council considered the Internal Auditor's report on the 2015-16 financial year. The Internal Auditor, Megan Myszka, noted some discrepancies with the accounts, but her conclusion is that the processes and practices followed by the Clerk have resulted in adequate annual accounts. She made the following suggestions:-

- Create Clerk procedures in case of Clerk unavailability. Once written there needs to be a procedure review process implemented, similar to the risk register review process.
- Write an Expense policy to stipulate the process to be used by the Clerk to avoid any ambiguity for under/over claims to the Parish Council and deadlines for the claims.

/ continued

The Clerk has an existing action to prepare notes on matters that are specific to Sadberge Parish Council, including a checklist of what needs to be done when, but will not attempt to duplicate the basic knowledge included in the Working With Your Council course.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

Taking into account the fact that the discrepancies noted by the Internal Auditor involved people claiming less in the way of expenses than they could have, the Parish Council agreed that an Expenses procedure is not necessary.

6.2 The Parish Council approved the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016.

6.3 The Parish Council approved the Statement of Accounts in Section 2 of the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2016.

7. Vehicles on the village green

There had been two reports of vehicles being driven on to the village green. After discussion, the Parish Council agreed that this is not a serious problem at present.

8. Parking at bus stops

8.1 A local resident has been parking a car near the bus stop by the brick bus shelter in the centre of the village. This has been making things awkward for the school bus, which has been having to pull in at an angle with its rear end sticking out into the road.

The Clerk will write to the local resident, asking him or her not to park the car in the vicinity of the bus stop during the times when school children are picked up or dropped off.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

The Clerk will ask Darlington Borough Council to refresh the yellow road markings in the area near the brick bus shelter.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

8.2 A local resident has been parking a car on the pavement at the corner of The Orchard. The Clerk will put a not on the car windscreen asking the resident not to park blocking the pavement.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

9. Fly tipping

The Parish Council discussed the issue of fly tipping in the laybys near Sadberge. Appropriate signage is already in place, so the only practical action is to inform Darlington Borough Council when fly tipping is discovered.

10. Darlington Local Plan

The Parish Council noted that Darlington Borough Council has issued an Interim Planning Position Statement to provide guidance for planning decisions while a new Darlington Local Plan is being drawn up.

11. Planning

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

- Granted 16/00422/FUL Removal of an existing telecommunications monopole (20 metres in height) and cabinet and installation of a replacement monopole (21 metres in height), cabinet and ancillary development on Stockton Road

11.2 The Parish Council objected to planning application 16/00550/FUL – which is for the erection of three terraced houses on land north-east of 3 - 4 Laurel Terrace – for the following reasons:

- The proposed development is outside the Sadberge limits to development, and development should not be permitted in this location.
- This is not a sustainable location for new residential development. As is Darlington Borough Council's Interim Planning Position Statement, Sadberge has no primary school, a very limited bus service, no railway service, no local or district centre within 2 kilometres, no shop or post office within 1 kilometre and no GP surgery with 1 kilometre.
- The proposed access arrangements are a major concern. The western access is directly opposite the delivery point for The Tuns at Sadberge and, more seriously, the eastern access point is on a bend on Stockton Road, directly opposite its junction with Norton Road. This is

already a dangerous junction. Vehicles travelling west-to-east through the village often bear left at this junction at high speed. Also, drivers coming in to Sadberge on Norton Road and turning right towards the centre of the village sometimes pull out onto Stockton Road on the assumption that vehicles approaching from their right are going to bear left on to Norton Road. The Parish Council believes that allowing the development as proposed would create a very dangerous situation at the junction between Stockton Road and Norton Road.

- There are not enough parking spaces. Given the limited bus service to Sadberge, each of the three households would almost certainly own two cars. The proposed development does not include sufficient parking spaces for these cars, and there are already problems with on-street parking in this part of the village.
- There are already concerns about subsidence along Laurel Terrace, and the excavation work involved in constructing the proposed new houses might lead to damage to the existing properties on Laurel Terrace.

12. Clerk's holiday

12.1 It was agreed that while the Clerk is away on holiday during July:-

- Councillors Tate and Lazenby will try to keep some space in the community composting facility by moving material from bay #1 to bay #2. **ACTION:** Councillors Tate and Lazenby
- Councillor Schott will do the weekly checks on the defibrillators
ACTION: Councillor Schott
- Councillor Tate will be the contact for people wishing to exercise their rights to inspect the Parish Council's accounts and associated records. **ACTION:** Councillor Tate
- The vehicle activated speed sign will be left in one location.

12.2 The Clerk will ask a local farmer to empty bay #4 of the community composting facility
ACTION: A Mackenzie

13. Darlington Association of Parish Councils (DAPC)

There was no report from the DAPC Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 8-Jun-2016.

14. North Villages PACT

14.1 There was no report from the PACT meeting in Bishopton Village Hall on Thursday 2-Jun-2016.

14.2 The next PACT meeting will be held in Sadberge Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday 14-Jul-2016.

15. Inspection tour of Parish Council land and property

The annual inspection tour will take place at the start of the next meeting. (See item 17 below.)

16. Agenda items for the next meeting

The following agenda items were proposed for the next meeting:

- Dog fouling on the village green.
- Fence around part of the village green.
- Seat around the oak tree on the triangle of village green in the centre of Sadberge.

17. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday 9-Aug-2015.

The first item on the agenda will be the inspection tour of Parish Council land and property. Meet at the brick bus shelter by the village green. The remainder of the meeting will be held in Sadberge Village Hall.

Alastair Mackenzie
Clerk to Sadberge Parish Council

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14th JUNE 2016.

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

Signed: Councillor L Tate _____ Date _____