

# SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the meeting held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2016

**Present:** Councillors Tate, Heath and Schott

**In attendance:** Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

### 1. Inspection tour of Sadberge Parish Council land and property

- 1.1 The inspection tour was carried out by Councillors Heath, Schott and Tate, accompanied by the Clerk.
- 1.2 See the checklist attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Best, Heywood, Lazenby and Smith, and the reasons for their absence were approved.

There were apologies from Councillor Brian Jones and Councillor Steve York.

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

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

### 4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 14-Jun-2016 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

### 5. Matters arising from previous meetings

- 5.1 The Clerk has sent an email asking Phil Haynes to look at one of the self-seeded trees between Town Farm Field and Hampass.
- 5.2 There was no news about development in and around Middleton St. George.
- 5.3 There was no news about the proposed development on the site of the old reservoir adjacent to Sadberge.
- 5.4 Durham Constabulary carried out more speed enforcement activity in Sadberge on Monday 8-Aug-2016.
- 5.5 The partly demolished lamp post on Stockton Road has been replaced.
- 5.6 The Clerk has contacted Darlington Borough Council about the car being parked in the bus stop in the centre of the village. The Traffic Management Engineer has replied that:-
  - The bus stop is not marked as a bus stop clearway, so the Borough Council wardens cannot enforce.
  - The police can issue a ticket for obstruction.
  - In the first instance someone should speak to the resident and advise them not to obstruct the bus stop.
  - Strictly speaking school buses should not use the bus stops, which are just for local service buses (i.e. the Scarlet Band bus).

After discussion, it was agreed that:-

- The Clerk will ask Darlington Borough Council to refresh the bus stop markings.  
**ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- This issue will be raised at a PACT meeting.

5.7 Darlington Borough Council has confirmed its decision to stop providing parish councils with paper copies of planning applications.

5.8 The Clerk has arranged to meet a Newcastle University researcher on Friday 19-Aug-2016 to discuss air quality monitoring.

*/ continued*

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

## 6. Community composting facility

6.1 During July:-

- A local farmer emptied bay #4 of the composting facility.
- A mini digger was used to transfer material from bay to bay. During this process, one of the scaffolding board guides was damaged.

6.2 It was agreed to allocate a budget to hire a mini digger at some point during the summer of 2017.

6.3 Alastair Mackenzie will continue his voluntary work to maintain the composting facility.

6.4 The Clerk will repair the scaffolding board guide. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

6.5 The Clerk will refresh the signs on the composting facility. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 7. Dog fouling on the village green

7.1 The Parish Council noted a resident's concern that, although dog owners are clearing up after their dogs on the village green, some dog dirt may not be removed.

7.2 Instances of dog owners failing to clean up after their dogs should be reported to Darlington Borough Council.

*Note from the Clerk: Dog fouling can be reported online via [http://selfservice.darlington.gov.uk/citizenportal/form.aspx?form=Dog\\_Fouling](http://selfservice.darlington.gov.uk/citizenportal/form.aspx?form=Dog_Fouling)*

## 8. Wheeled bins and rubbish being left out for extended periods

The Clerk will contact Darlington Borough Council about wheeled bins and rubbish being left at the south end of East View for extended periods. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 9. New parking restrictions

9.1 Darlington Borough Council is proposing to implement "No waiting" restrictions in three locations in Sadberge:-

- The south side of Darlington Road / Church View at its junction with West Row.
- The south side of the opposite The Tuns at Sadberge.
- The north-west side of Norton Crescent at its junction with St. Andrew's Park.

9.2 The Parish Council supports the implementation of "No waiting" restrictions at the north end of West Row and on Norton Crescent at its junction with St. Andrew's Park, but is concerned that the loss of parking spaces resulting from the proposed restriction opposite The Tuns at Sadberge would cause problems. The Clerk will communicate these views to Darlington Borough Council's Traffic Management Engineer. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 10. Hedges obstructing pavements

10.1 Several hedges in and around Sadberge are growing out across pavements, causing obstructions to pedestrians.

10.2 The Clerk will ask Darlington Borough Council to trim the hedge adjacent to Church View on the north side of Town Farm Field. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

10.3 The Clerk will write to the residents of Abbey Road properties with gardens backing on to Stockton Road, asking them to trim their hedges so that they do not obstruct the Stockton Road pavement. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

10.4 The Clerk will write to the resident of 1 East View asking them to trim their hedge so that it does not obstruct the Church View pavement. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 11. Fence around the village green

A local resident has asked for permission to construct a fence around part of the village green near Oaklands House to make the green safer for children to play on.

It was agreed that the Parish Council has no objection in principle to a local resident donating a fence, but that the Parish Council would need to see details of what is being proposed.

## 12. Seat around the oak tree in the centre of the village

12.1 Councillor Schott reported that a new six-sided bench would cost about £2,500. It would also be necessary to install a paved area around the tree.

12.2 It was agreed that more information is needed, including the design of the bench and the cost of installing the paving. **ACTION:** Councillor Schott

*Note from the Clerk: The Parish Council's Financial Regulations stipulate that, if practical, at least two quotes must be obtained for any purchase over £2,000. See item 8 of the Financial Regulations.*

## 13. Public footpaths around Sadberge

13.1 A Sadberge resident has expressed concern about the overgrown state of the public footpaths in the area around Sadberge.

13.2 The Clerk will ask Darlington Borough Council for an update on the plans for maintaining the footpaths. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 14. Parish Council land and property

14.1 Discussion of the issues identified during the inspection tour of Parish Council land and property was deferred until the next meeting.

14.2 The Parish Council agreed to accept Ernie Lowther's offer to refurbish the benches in Sadberge, and agree to allocate a budget of up to £100 for materials.

14.3 The petrol-driven strimmer – provided by the Friends of Sadberge Festival – that Ernie Lowther uses to trim grass verges in Sadberge needs to be replaced. It was agreed to consider making a donation to the Friends of Sadberge Festival to help them to buy a new strimmer.

## 15. External audit

The Clerk has sent off the additional information needed by the external auditor.

## 16. Insurance

There was nothing new to report about the Parish Council's insurance arrangements.

## 17. Moor House wind farm

17.1 The inaugural meeting of the Moor House Wind Farm Liaison Committee will be held in Sadberge Village Hall at 6 p.m. on Wednesday 26-Oct-2016.

17.2 Sadberge Parish Council is being invited to nominate a representative to the Liaison Committee.

17.3 The draft constitution for the Liaison Committee does not specify how the committee will make decisions; e.g. about grants from the Community Fund. It also does not specify the number of representatives from the Banks Group. The Clerk will communicate these comments to Banks Renewables' Community Relations Manager. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 18. Darlington Local Plan

The Parish Council noted that Darlington Borough Council has produced an Issues and Scoping document as part of the process of producing a new Local Plan for Darlington.

One key issue is that about 10,000 new houses will be needed in the Borough of Darlington over the next 20 years; i.e. an average of 500 new houses per year. This will require the allocation of additional land over and above the previously-identified strategic locations for housing development. Options mentioned in the Issues and Scoping document include an extension to the north of Darlington Town, expanding the rural villages and a new settlement in the north-east of Darlington Borough.

## 19. Planning

The Parish Council noted the outcomes of the following planning applications:

- Granted 16/00456/FUL Demolition of a conservatory and erection of a sun lounge at the rear of 17 Chapel Row.
- Granted 16/00566/FUL Extension to existing annexe and conversion to create separate dwelling at High Meadows, Middleton Road.
- Granted 15/00918/FUL Erection of three houses on land behind the Buck Inn.

## 20. Cleveland Local Councils Association (CLCA)

There was no report from the CLCA meeting held on Wednesday 29-Jun-2016.

## 21. North Villages PACT

21.1 There was no report from the PACT meeting in Sadberge Village Hall on Thursday 14-Jul-2016.

21.2 The next PACT meeting will be held in Bishopton Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday 22-Sep-2016.

## 22. Tees Valley Mayoral Combined Authority

The Parish Council noted that the Tees Valley Combined Authority is proposing to convert into a Mayoral Combined Authority with a directly elected mayor and more devolved powers from Central Government.

## 23. Payments

The Parish Council approved the following payments:-

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| • Sadberge Summer Festival – Cockerton Prize Silver Band | £150.00 |
| • Sadberge Summer Festival – Pet Mania                   | £150.00 |
| • Sadberge Summer Festival – Kaminari Taiko Drummers     | £150.00 |
| • Sadberge Summer Festival – St. John Ambulance          | £138.00 |

## 24. Correspondence

The Parish Council noted the following correspondence:-

- Notification that a cycling event will be passing through Sadberge on Saturday 20-Aug-2016.

## 25. Agenda items for the next meeting

The following agenda items were proposed for the next meeting:

- Ownership of the land in front of the Buck Inn.
- Village hall lease.

## 26. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday 14-Sep-2015.

*Note from the Clerk: Due to the Clerk's holiday arrangements, the date of the next meeting has been changed to Tuesday 20-Sep-2016.*

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2016.

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

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_