

# SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the meeting held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017 in Sadberge Village Hall

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

**In attendance:** Ward Councillor Brian Jones Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

### 1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

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

Councillors Lazenby, Schott and Smith and the Clerk declared an interest in item 8 – Village Hall lease. Councillor Tate joined the meeting.

### 3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 13-Dec-2016 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

### 4. Matters arising from previous meetings

4.1 There was no news about the bus stop road markings in the centre of Sadberge.

4.2 Following the consultation, Darlington Borough Council has decided not to implement the proposed new parking restrictions opposite The Tuns at Sadberge.

The Clerk will check whether the other new parking restrictions have been implemented.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

4.3 The Clerk will check whether any hedges are still obstructing the pavement on Middleton Road.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

4.4 Darlington Borough Council has been making slow progress on the new Darlington Local Plan. It has been suggested that the Government may intervene if the Borough Council has not made sufficient progress by the end of 2017.

4.5 Darlington Borough Council has sufficient funds to keep the 'Our Bus' service running until about Christmas 2018.

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

### 5. Christmas tree collection scheme

5.1 On Saturday 7-Jan-2017, volunteers from the Darlington Rotary Club picked up 20 Christmas trees from the collection point just inside the entrance to Town Farm Field. (Last year, 24 trees were collected.)

5.2 The Parish Council approved the payment of an £80 donation to St. Teresa's Hospice.

### 6. Moor House wind farm

6.1 There was a meeting of the Moor House Wind Farm Liaison Committee on 14-Dec-2016

6.2 Bishopton Parish Council and Haughton Cricket Club have asked to be represented on the Liaison Committee.

6.3 The Moor House Community Fund will open for applications in about November 2017. At its next meeting, the Parish Council will consider possible applications.

6.4 Work on the wind farm restarted during the week commencing 30-Jan-2017.

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## 7. Sadberge Summer Festival

- 7.1 After consulting Sadberge residents, the Friends of Sadberge Festival are proposing that the large annual Summer Festival in Sadberge should be discontinued for the time being, but there should continue to be a programme of smaller community events during the year:-
- Two fundraising events organised by the Friends of Sadberge Festival; e.g. Spring Fling or Valentine's Dance, a dog show, etc..
  - Bonfire Night fireworks event.
  - A summer 'mini-festival', mainly for Sadberge residents and held in the village hall
- 7.2 The proposal is that the Bonfire Night event and the summer mini-festival will be Parish Council events.
- 7.3 It was agreed to appoint a Community Events Co-ordinator to organise community events on behalf of the Parish Council.
- 7.4 The Parish Council approved the remit for the Community Events Co-ordinator and appointed Megan Myszka as an Officer of the Parish Council in the role of Community Events Co-ordinator.

## 8. Village Hall lease

- 8.1 The Honorary Secretary of the Sadberge Village Hall Association gave an update on the negotiations for a new lease.
- The Village Hall Association has put the negotiations into the hands of its solicitor (who is acting on a 'pro bono' basis).
  - The solicitor's advice is that the current lease gives the Village Hall Association security of tenure and that it would not be appropriate for the Village Hall Association to accept liability for the Church's legal expenses.
  - The Village Hall Association has suggested to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) that if the Church needs assistance with its legal expenses then the PCC could ask Sadberge Parish Council for a grant.

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

- 8.2 The Parish Council discussed the situation.

Councillors Lazenby, Schott and Smith and the Clerk re-joined the meeting.

## 9. Pavements in Sadberge

- 9.1 The Parish Council is concerned about the state of some of the pavements in Sadberge. It does not believe that using slurry to attempt to repair footpaths is worthwhile, as the thin surface layer very quickly breaks up, leaving the footpath in a very poor condition.
- 9.2 Councillor Brian Jones will ask the Darlington Borough Council officer responsible for footpaths and roads in the village to come out to Sadberge for a site visit.  
**ACTION:** Councillor Brian Jones
- 9.3 The Parish Councillors will let the Clerk know (by email) the locations where the pavements are in a poor state.  
**ACTION:** All councillors

## 10. Church wall

The Parish Council is concerned about the safety of the wall along the west edge of the St. Andrews churchyard. At one point the wall has been pushed out by a tree, and at another point it appears to be leaning against a lamp post.

The Clerk will communicate these concerns to the Parochial Church Council.

**ACTION:** Alastair Mackenzie

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

- 11.1 The Parish Council discussed options for replacing the seat around the large oak tree in the centre of the village. The Parish Council has received a quote of £2,500 for a new metal seat, which could be made to the required dimensions. There would be additional cost for installing paving around the base of the tree. A circular wooden seat may be an alternative option.

- 11.2 The Clerk and Councillor Schott will measure the tree to establish whether a standard wooden seat would fit around the tree.  
**ACTION:** A Mackenzie / Councillor Schott

## 12. Caravan on Hill House Lane

- 12.1 Following a meeting with the person responsible for the caravan on land adjacent to Hill House Lane north of Sadberge village, Darlington Borough Council officers have invited him to submit an application for a change of use of the land.
- 12.2 Darlington Borough Council's Environmental Health team are taking steps to check whether there is a noise nuisance to nearby residents.
- 12.3 Councillor Brian Jones will try to obtain further information about what the land is being used for.  
**ACTION:** Councillor Brian Jones

## 13. Farm Watch

The national Farm Watch organisation would like to hold a meeting in Sadberge Village Hall, probably on a Thursday in early April.

It was agreed that the Parish Council will pay for the room hire and refreshments for this Farm Watch meeting.

## 14. Road traffic accident

There were two road traffic accidents at the junction between Stockton Road and the A66 during the second half of December 2016. Following a suggestion from a Sadberge resident, Darlington Borough Council is going to claim the cost of repairing some damaged street furniture from one of the drivers' insurance company.

## 15. Buckingham Palace Garden Party

The Cleveland Local Councils Association (CLCA) will be nominating two people (plus their partners) to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party on Tuesday 16-May-2017.

It was agreed to put Rowland Glew's name forward for nomination if he is interested.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 16. System of internal control and internal audit arrangements

- 16.1 The Parish Council reviewed its system of internal control and agreed that it is suitable and effective.
- 16.2 The Parish Council reviewed its internal audit arrangements and agreed that they are suitable and effective.

## 17. Risk assessment

Discussion of the Parish Council's risk assessment was deferred until the next meeting.

The Clerk will send copies of the current risk assessment to the Parish Councillors.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 18. Insurance

The Clerk will obtain quotes for renewing the Parish Council's insurance.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 19. Planning

The Parish Council decided to make no comment on the following planning application:-

- 16/01201/FUL Variation of the planning permission for the erection of four houses on land south of Lea Close.

## 20. Villages PACT

It was noted that a meeting of what is officially no longer the Villages PACT will be held in Sadberge Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday 9-Feb-2017.

**21. Payments**

The Parish Council approved the following payment:-

- Room hire for meetings £150.0

**22. Agenda items for the next meeting**

The following agenda items were proposed for the next meeting.

- Road sweeping.
- Fly tipping in the Beacon Hill layby.
- Rubbish being left near Norton Back lane.
- "Dog dirt" stencils for footpaths.
- Caravan adjacent to Hill House Lane.
- Moor House Wind Farm Community Fund applications.

**23. Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 21-Feb-2017.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2017.

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

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