

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 12th September 2017

Present: Councillors Tate, Best, Heywood, Heath and Smith.

In attendance: Councillor Brian Jones

Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

1. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Lazenby and Schott, and the reasons for their absence were approved.

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-Aug-2017, item 1.1 should have recorded that the inspection tour was carried out by Councillors Best, Lazenby, Schott, Smith and Tate, accompanied by the Clerk.

With this correction, the minutes were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from previous meetings

4.1 Ernie Lowther has completed the repair and painting of the bus shelter on Middleton Road. The Parish Council thanked him for his excellent work.

4.2 There was no news about the Sadberge history trail.

4.3 There was no news about the Darlington Local Plan.

4.4 There was no news about the proposed new bypass around the north of Darlington.

4.5 The large components of the Moor House wind turbines will start to arrive on Monday 18-Sep-2017.

It was agreed to discuss applications to the Moor House Community Fund at the next meeting. All Parish Councillors will consider what applications could be made.

ACTION: All Parish Councillors

4.6 An arborist has inspected the tree near the churchyard wall along West Row and has advised the Parochial Church Council that there is no imminent problem. The Parochial Church Council is arranging to use a tell-tale to monitor the tree over the next six to twelve months.

4.7 The owners of the garages opposite Pleasant View have no objection to the Parish Council fitting a barrier to prevent children falling down the gap between the garages, but one of the owners has asked the Parish Council not to proceed with the work until he has finished painting his garage.

4.8 Darlington Borough Council's gully sucker vehicle has visited Sadberge to clean out a number of drains, including the drains on Middleton Road.

4.9 The Clerk has still to paint more "Clean it up" signs on pavements in the eastern half of the village.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

4.10 Progress on the Village Hall lease is still held up waiting for the Charity Commission to process the application to set up the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

4.11 Darlington Borough Council has moved the "No dogs" sign at the children's play area and has stencilled signs on the footpath from Dale Road to the play area. The Dog Warden will try to visit the play area from time to time, but the Borough Council does not have sufficient resources to take enforcement action on a regular basis.

The Clerk will check that the "No dogs" sign has been moved to an appropriate place.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

/ continued

4.12 There was a good response from Darlington Borough Council to fly tipping in Hampass.

5. Bonfire Night event

- 5.1 It was agreed to organise a Bonfire Night event, including a bonfire and a fireworks display on Sunday 5-Nov-2017.
- 5.2 Taking into account the Friends of Sadberge Festival's offer to make a donation of £1,000 towards the cost of buying fireworks for the event, the Parish Council set the budget for the event at £1,750.
- 5.3 The Parish Council re-confirmed David Elmer's delegated authority – in the role of Bonfire Night Organiser – to organise the Bonfire Night event in accordance with the agreed remit and budget.
- 5.4 The Parish Council gave its permission for the Friends of Sadberge Festival to carry out fundraising activities at and in association with the Bonfire Night event.
- 5.5 The Clerk will ask Darlington Borough Council for a licence to hold the Bonfire Night event in Town Farm Field.
ACTION: A Mackenzie
- 5.6 The Bonfire Night Organiser put forward a proposal to improve safety and accessibility by (i) laying 20 mm stone in the Town Farm Field entrance and in front of the composting bays and (ii) installing a land drain. The Parish Council agreed to proceed with the work provided that the total cost is no more than £500.
ACTION: David Elmer
The Clerk will ask Darlington Borough Council for permission to carry out the work.
ACTION: A Mackenzie

6. Seat around the oak tree in the centre of the village

- 6.1 The area around the base of the oak tree has been paved, and the new seat has been installed.
- 6.2 Two local residents have asked the Parish Council to install stone facing on the brickwork on the east side of the paved area. The Clerk will investigate the cost of doing this.
ACTION: A Mackenzie

7. Polytunnel on Hampass

- 7.1 The tree works have been completed and the Tenancy at Will has been signed.
- 7.2 The polytunnel will probably be erected in the early part of 2018.

8. Community composting facility

- 8.1 All but one of the new posts have been installed, and the composting bays are in a much better physical condition.
- 8.2 Work on moving the material from bay to bay is now up to date except for the pile of material that has been left in front of Bay #1.
- 8.3 There is a large pile of woody material on the far side of Bay #4.
- 8.4 David Elmer will arrange for the material in front of to be removed and for the woody material to be moved to the bonfire spot.
ACTION: David Elmer
The Clerk will check that Darlington Borough Council does not object to the woody material being burned before Bonfire Night.
ACTION: A Mackenzie
- 8.5 Local residents made the following comments:-
- The composting facility is unmanageable, is a mess and generates smells.
 - The large pile of woody material is a cause for concern, and may be a fire risk.
 - There needs to be a plan for how to avoid an accumulation of material outside Bay #1 when the main volunteer is away on holiday next summer.
- 8.6 The Parish Council agreed that the composting facility will be tidied up (see item 8.4 above) and the situation will be reviewed again in a year's time.

9. Overgrown hedges

- 9.1 Overgrown hedges are obstructing pavements and obscuring road signs in a number of places in and around Sadberge.
- 9.2 David Yole will trim the hedge that is obscuring the sign on the west side of Chapel Row on the northern edge of the village.
- 9.3 The Clerk will inform Darlington Borough Council about the obscured 30 mph sign on Stockton Road.
ACTION: A Mackenzie
- 9.4 The Clerk will ask Darlington Borough Council to cut the hedge along the northern edge of Town Farm Field.
ACTION: A Mackenzie
- 9.5 It was agreed that in future years it would be a good idea to use a summer flyer or Roundabout to remind householders about their responsibility to ensure that their hedges do not obstruct footpaths.

10. Parking on footpaths

Sadberge residents have expressed concerns about cars being parked so that they obstruct footpaths.

It was pointed out that parking on a pavement is not an offence in its own right, but that causing an obstruction is an offence.

11. Traffic calming

A local resident has asked whether it would be possible to do something to persuade drivers to slow down as they turn off Hill House Lane towards East Close.

It was decided to defer discussion of this subject until the next meeting.

12. Old reservoir near Sadberge

A local resident reported that there had, on several occasions, been late night activity in the old reservoir. Councillor Brian Jones has informed Northumbrian Water and the police.

13. Planning

- 13.1 There was no news about the proposal to build 25 houses on the east side of Middleton Road on the southern edge of Sadberge.
- 13.2 There was no news about the proposed dog training facility at The Willows, Hill House Lane..

14. External Audit and Annual Report

The Clerk had not yet received the external audit results.

Councillor Brian Jones left the meeting.

15. Parish Council land and property

Discussion of this item was deferred until the next meeting.

16. Darlington Association of Parish Councils (DAPC)

There was no news from the DAPC

17. Payments

The Parish Council approved the following payments:-

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| • Materials for bus shelter repair | £29.87 |
| • Materials for bench repair | £7.00 |
| • Materials for bollard replacement | £23.97 |
| • Tree works in Hampass | £620.00 |
| • Paving around the oak tree in the centre of the village | £1,300.00 |
| • Seat around the oak tree in the centre of the village | £2,150.00 |
| • Composting facility repair | £384.00 |

18. .Agenda items for the next meeting

The following agenda items were proposed for the next meeting:-

- Telephone box in the centre of Sadberge.
- Christmas tree.
- Additional Christmas lights.

19. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held in Sadberge Village Hall at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 10-Oct-2017.

Alastair Mackenzie
Clerk to Sadberge Parish Council

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th SEPTEMBER 2017.

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

Signed: Councillor L Tate _____ Date _____