

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 10th October 2017

Present: Councillors Heath, Heywood, Lazenby, Schott and Smith.

In attendance: Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk David Elmer – Bonfire Night Organiser

1. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Best and Tate, and the reasons for their absence were approved.

Apologies were received from Councillor Brian Jones.

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

The minutes of the meeting on 12-Sep-2017 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from previous meetings

4.1 The Clerk has still to inform Darlington Borough Council about the obscured 30 mph sign on Stockton Road. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

The Clerk has still to ask Darlington Borough Council to cut the hedge along the northern edge of Town Farm Field. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

4.2 There was no news about the community composting facility.

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

4.4 There was no news about the Darlington Local Plan.

4.5 The new Sadberge Village Hall CIO has been registered with the Charity Commission. This should allow progress with the lease arrangements.

4.6 There have been comments on social media about dog fouling in Sadberge.

5. Bonfire Night event

5.1 The Event Plan and Risk Assessment have been sent to the Public Events Safety Advisory Group (PESAG).

5.2 It was noted that there will be a fireworks display in the Darlington Arena on Sunday 5-Nov-2017. This may relieve some of the pressure of numbers at the Sadberge Bonfire Night event.

5.3 The Parish Council approved the following payment:-

- Fireworks £1,657.91

5.4 The Clerk will check that the Parish Council's insurance covers the Bonfire Night event.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

5.5 Because there may be some medieval archaeological remains under Town Farm Field, Darlington Borough Council will only give permission for the proposed resurfacing work on the condition that the work is monitored by a qualified archaeologist. The Clerk will try to find a suitable person.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

6. Moor House wind farm

6.1 The wind turbines are being erected. They will be commissioned after Christmas.

6.2 Discussion of possible applications for grants from the Moor House Community Fund was deferred until the next meeting.

/ continued

7. Planning

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

- Refused 17/00375/FUL Demolition of an existing stable block and erection of a two storey dwelling incorporating stables on the ground floor on land adjoining Ashtree Cottage, Sadberge Road, Middleton St. George.

7.2 The application for permission to build 25 houses on the east side of Middleton Road on the southern edge of Sadberge will be considered by Darlington Borough Council's Planning Applications Committee at its meeting on Wednesday 18-Oct-2017.

The Clerk will attend the Planning Applications Committee meeting if he can get back from a visit to Scotland in time.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

7.3 There was no news about the application for permission for the dog training facility at The Willows, Hill House Lane.

8. Dogs in the children's play area

8.1 The Clerk met Darlington Borough Council's Dog Warden, Andy Wood, at the children's play area to discuss arrangements for keeping dogs out of the play area.

8.2 The "No dogs" sign is currently half way along the lane leading from the children's play area to Stockton Road. This is not an appropriate location. The Clerk has asked Andy Wood to get the sign moved to the south-west end of the play area, but due to resource limitations this may not happen for some time.

8.3 Andy Wood made two suggestions:-

- Allow dogs into most of the play area, but fence off the area around the play equipment and make that a "no dogs" zone.
- Install a fence (with a gate) along the south-west end of the play area to give a physical indication of the boundary of the "no dogs" area.

8.4 It was agreed to obtain quotes for installing a fence along the south-west end of the children's play area.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

9. Traffic calming

Discussion of this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

10. Telephone box in the centre of Sadberge.

The telephone box that used to stand beside the village green in the centre of Sadberge has been removed.

11. General Data Protection Regulations.

11.1 The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), which will be introduced in May 2018, will impose new duties on parish councils.

11.2 It was agreed that the Clerk will attend a GDPR training course in Spennymoor on Wednesday 1-Nov-2017.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

12. Parish Council land and property

The Parish Council reviewed the issues that arose during the inspection tour of Parish Council land and property on 8-Aug-2017.

12.1 Councillor Lazenby has removed the suckers from the base of the tree at the northern edge of the main part of the village green.

12.2 Arrangements are in hand to install a barrier across the gap at the back of the garages opposite Pleasant View.

12.3 Councillor Schott will remove the self-seeded sycamore sapling that is growing up beside one of the garages opposite Pleasant View.

ACTION: Councillor Schott

- 12.4 Ernie Lowther has repaired the bollard at the end of the triangle of land at the south end of Chapel Row and replaced the missing bollard at the edge of the village green in front of the Old Post Office.
- 12.5 It is not clear what can be done about the fungus growing on the chainsaw carvings on the village green.
- 12.6 Ernie Lowther has repaired the backrest of bench near where the phone box used to be.
- 12.7 Councillor Schott will drill holes in the base of the defibrillator cabinet in the centre of the village to try to prevent build-up of moisture in the cabinet. **ACTION:** Councillor Schott

13. External Audit and Annual Report

- 13.1 The external audit is complete. In the External Auditor's opinion, the information in the Annual Return is in accordance with proper practices and the External Auditor has not raised any matters relating to lack of compliance with relevant legislation or regulatory requirements.
- 13.2 The External Auditor draws the Parish Council's attention to the Internal Auditor's recommendations and recommends that the Parish Council implements those recommendations as soon as possible or in any event before the end of the current financial year. Apart from that, the External Auditor did not raise any issues for the Parish Council's attention.
- 13.3 The Parish Council approved the audited Annual Return for 2016-17.

14. Christmas tree

- 14.1 It was agreed to put a Christmas tree on the village green this year.
- 14.2 Councillor Heath will obtain a suitable tree. The preferred delivery date is Friday 1-Dec-2017. **ACTION:** Councillor Heath

15. Additional Christmas lights

- 15.1 It is possible to get battery-powered strings of LED Christmas lights. This would make it possible to put Christmas lights in places where this would previously not have been possible.
- 15.2 After discussion, it was decided not to put up any additional Christmas lights this year.

16. Agenda items for the next meeting

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

- Budget and precept for 2018-19.
- Ceremony to acknowledge Councillor Rennie Vickers' service to the Parish Council and the Sadberge community.

17. 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 7-Nov-2017.

Alastair Mackenzie
Clerk to Sadberge Parish Council

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10th OCTOBER 2017.

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

Signed: Councillor L Tate _____ Date _____