

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 5th December 2017

Present: Councillors Heath, Best, Heywood, Schott and Smith

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

1. Apologies

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

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

The Clerk declared an interest in item 4.3 – Car parked on Middleton Road.

3. Minutes of previous meetings

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting on 7-Nov-2017 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.
- 3.2 The minutes of the meeting on 14-Nov-2017 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from previous meetings

- 4.1 It was agreed to have a special meeting of the Parish Council in Sadberge Village Hall at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 16-Jan-2018 to discuss the future of the Bonfire Night Event.

Sadberge residents will be invited to attend this special meeting, and relevant information will be included in the newsletter. (See item 9 below.) **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

- 4.2 The drafting of the new lease on Sadberge Village Hall has stalled because the Church's solicitor broke her arm and has been off work. This could cause a serious problem, as the meeting to approve the dissolution of the Sadberge Village Hall Association and the transfer of its assets to the new Sadberge Village Hall CIO will be held on Tuesday 12-Dec-2017. If it is not reasonably certain that the CIO will get a lease on the village hall then the meeting may decide to retain the existing Association and use the 'security of tenure' provisions in the Landlord & Tenant Act 1954 to extend the current lease. This would be a poor outcome for both the Village Hall and the Church.
- 4.3 In May 2009 the Parish Council wrote to Darlington Borough Council's Traffic Safety Manager, Andy Casey, to seek his advice on whether a car should be allowed to park on Middleton Road between the wooden bus shelter and the Buck Inn. The Clerk has still to retrieve Andy Casey's response from the store in Middleton One Row.

The Clerk left the meeting.

It was pointed out that there is now more traffic than there was in 2009, and the school bus now picks up from the bus stop on Middleton Road.

Councillor Brian Jones will consult Andy Casey about whether a car should be parked in this location on Middleton Road. **ACTION:** Councillor Brian Jones

The Clerk re-joined the meeting.

- 4.4 The Clerk attended a seminar on the General Data Protection Regulations on Wednesday 1-Nov-2018. The introduction of the new regulations will have a significant impact on parish councils, but it is not yet clear what parish councils will need to do in order to comply with the regulations. The Clerk will monitor developments.
- 4.5 There was no news about the dog training facility at The Willows on Hill House Lane.

/ continued

4.6 A Christmas tree has been put up on the village green.

4.7 The Christmas tree collection scheme is going ahead. This will be included in the newsletter. (See item 9 below.)

4.8 There were positive comments about the Christmas tree on social media.

There were also (i) complaints about dog fouling and (ii) news about a car stolen from Abbey Road.

5. Moor House wind farm

5.1 The Moor House wind turbines are currently being tested. They will be commissioned around mid-January.

5.2 The Moor House Community Fund will have an extra £10k available in the first year. There is also a one-off sum of £50k available for energy efficiency projects.

5.3 A local resident has asked if funding could be used to improve Internet connection speeds in and around Sadberge.

6. Blocked drain on Middleton Road

6.1 Water has been bubbling up from the drain on the verge of Middleton Road near the Rectory for several years. The Clerk will contact Darlington Borough Council's Street Scene team about this.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

7. Traffic calming

7.1 The local resident who had asked for this subject to be put on the agenda was unable to attend the meeting.

7.2 Large wagons travelling over the uneven surface of Middleton Road are causing vibration in houses along Middleton Road and Richmond Cottages. Councillor Brian Jones will speak to Darlington Borough Council's Highways Inspector about this.

ACTION: Councillor Brian Jones

8. Defibrillators

8.1 On Wednesday 29-Nov-2017 the defibrillator in the centre of the village was indicating an error. When it was switched on, it reported that its battery was dead and needed to be replaced. However, when the battery was removed and then re-inserted the defibrillator display returned to normal, indicating that the battery still has a full charge.

It has previously been noted that water has been getting into the defibrillator cabinet, and has sometimes been pooling in the bottom of the cabinet. The light has failed, and this may have been caused by the damp conditions inside the cabinet.

8.2 Councillor Schott will drill drainage / ventilation holes in the base of the cabinet.

ACTION: Councillor Schott

8.3 The Clerk will install a min / max thermometer in the cabinet to check whether the heater is working.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

9. Newsletter

The Parish Council decided to send out an issue of Sadberge Parish News in mid-December. Subject to there being sufficient space, the newsletter will include the following topics:-

- Christmas tree collection arrangements.
- The development on the east side of Middleton Road on the southern edge of the village.
- Village hall lease and the conversion of the Village Hall Association into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).
- The Bonfire Night event, including the special Parish Council meeting on 16-Jan-2018.
- The new bench around the oak tree in the middle of the village.
- Moor House wind farm.
- Dog fouling.
- The Friends of Sadberge Festival open night.
- Community groups in Sadberge.
- Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

10. Planning

The Parish Council noted that the applicants are appealing against the refusal of planning permission for demolition of the existing stable block and erection of a two-storey dwelling adjacent to Ashtree Cottage, Sadberge Road, Middleton St. George.

11. Payments

The Parish Council approved the following payments:-

- Bonfire Night event expenses £196.14
- Christmas Tree £192.00
- Meeting room hire £202.50

12. Agenda items for the next meeting

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

- Lorry at Lea Close.
- Fly tipping.

13. Date of the next meeting

13.1 The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held in Sadberge Village Hall at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 9-Jan-2018.

13.2 There will be a special meeting of Sadberge Parish Council in Sadberge Village Hall at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 16-Jan-2018 to discuss the future of the Bonfire Night event.

Alastair Mackenzie
Clerk to Sadberge Parish Council

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5th DECEMBER 2017.

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

Signed: Councillor L Tate _____ Date _____