

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 6th February 2018

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

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

1. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Heath, and the reason for her absence was 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 the last meeting

3.1 The minutes of the meeting on 9-Jan-2018 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

3.2 The Parish Council noted that the meeting on 16-Jan-2018 was not quorate.

13. Footpath / cycle path between Sadberge and Middleton St. George

13.1 The Parish Council discussed a local resident's suggestion that a footpath / cycle path should be created between Sadberge and Middleton St. George.

13.2 The following points were made during the discussion:-

- A footpath / cycle path would be a natural link between Sadberge and Middleton St. George.
- Darlington Borough Council's Assistant Countryside Access Officer, Yvonne Ramage, investigated options for a footpath / cycle path / bridleway between the southern edge of Sadberge and the old railway line between Middleton St. George and Darlington.
Note from the Clerk: Yvonne Ramage presented options for a new footpath / cycle path / bridleway to Sadberge Parish Council on 5-Feb-2008. She no longer works for Darlington Borough Council.
- Where would the necessary funding come from?

13.3 It was decided to write to Darlington Borough Council's Public Rights of Way Officer and the Tees Valley Mayor to ask them to look into the possibility of establishing a safe, off-road footpath / cycle path / bridleway between Sadberge and Middleton St. George. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

4. Matters arising from previous meetings

4.1 Rennie Vickers has not yet seen the plaque on the new bench around the tree in the centre of the village, but his family are planning to arrange for him to visit the new bench once the weather improves.

It was pointed out that the hedges of some of the properties on Abbey Road are obstructing the footpath along Stockton Road. The Clerk will write to the relevant residents asking them to trim their hedges. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

4.2 Sadberge Village Hall CIO still does not have a lease on Sadberge Village Hall.

The Village Hall Association is continuing to occupy the village hall for the time being under the terms of the lease that expired at the end of 2017. Efforts to finalise the new lease are continuing.

4.3 Darlington Borough Council's Highways Development Engineer, Paul Ibbertson, has investigated the issue of the car that is regularly parked on Middleton Road between the wooden bus shelter and the Buck Inn. The bus companies do not regard the car as a problem, and Paul Ibbertson does not see a need to take any action about parking in that location.

/ continued

However, there is a separate issue with visibility at the central crossroads, and Paul Ibbertson is going to consider the possibility of implementing additional parking restrictions on the northern side of the road.

- 4.4 The Clerk has still to contact Darlington Borough Council about the blocked drain on Middleton Road near The Rectory.
ACTION: A Mackenzie
- 4.5 The Parish Council approved the text of the letter about the lorry that has been left on the verge adjacent to the former scaffolding yard at Lea Close. The Clerk will send the letter.
ACTION: A Mackenzie
- 4.6 Darlington Borough Council's Highways Inspector, Carl Reay, has responded to the Parish Council's question about the condition of the road surface on Middleton Road. He says that the Borough Council completed sustained maintenance patching on the relevant parts of Middleton Road and that the results were satisfactory.
- 4.7 The rubbish that had been fly tipped in the layby on Darlington Road near Beacon Hill Bungalows has been removed.
- 4.8 The defibrillator pads have been replaced, as they were past their "use by" date.
The Clerk is continuing to monitor the condition of the battery in the defibrillator in the centre of the village.
- 4.9 There was no news about the development on the east side of Middleton Road on the southern edge of the village.
- 4.10 The site of the unauthorised dog training facility at The Willows on Hill House Lane appears to have been vacated. Councillor Brian Jones will check with Darlington Borough Council's Enforcement Officer.
ACTION: Councillor Brian Jones
The fence along the Hill House Lane edge of the site is in a poor condition and could cause a hazard.
- 4.11 The following issues have appeared on social media:-
- Vehicles being parked on the pavement and/or on double yellow lines at the entrance to St. Andrew's Park.
 - A burglary on Norton Crescent.
 - A local farmer's helpful response to problems caused by the recent snow. It was agreed to write to Chris Shepherd thanking him for helping vehicles in difficulty on Hill House Lane.
ACTION: A Mackenzie
 - An enquiry about an art club in Sadberge.

5. Bonfire Night event

- 5.1 There has been an article in the Northern Echo about the issues facing the Sadberge Bonfire Night event.
- 5.2 The Bonfire Night Organiser will obtain advice from companies providing traffic management and site security services.
ACTION: D Elmer
- 5.3 Does Darlington Borough Council have a contingency plan for a situation in which the Sadberge central crossroads becomes blocked?

6. Christmas tree collection scheme

- 6.1 On Saturday 6-Jan-2018, volunteers from the Darlington Rotary Club picked up 17 Christmas trees from the collection point just inside the entrance to Town Farm Field.
- 6.2 The Parish Council approved the payment of a £68 donation to St. Teresa's Hospice.

7. Moor House wind farm

The Moor House Community Fund is now open for grant applications. Applications are being processed by the County Durham Community Foundation.

8. World War One fighter landing ground

8.1 The Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust would like to provide a granite memorial to commemorate a World War One fighter landing ground west of Sadberge Hall.

8.2 The Parish Council decided to accept the offer and to install the memorial in a suitable location in the centre of the village.

Note from the Clerk: The granite memorial will be 1.2 metres tall and will weigh about 1.4 tonnes.

9. Complaint about Darlington Borough Council's Planning Committee

9.1 Councillor Tate wrote to Darlington Borough Council on 15-Jan-2018 asking for the complaint to be escalated to Stage 2 (Formal Investigation).

9.2 In his reply, the Borough Council's Complaints and Information Governance Manager, Lee Downey, apologised for the delay in dealing with the complaint, acknowledged that it was not appropriate for Dave Coates to have been asked to respond to the complaint, and promised to investigate the complaint and provide a full response by 28-Feb-2018.

10. Darlington Association of Parish Councils (DAPC)

10.1 Councillor Tate and the Clerk attended the DAPC meeting on Wednesday 17-Jan-2018.

10.2 The main item on the agenda was a presentation on what Darlington Borough Council has been doing to establish housing targets. The Borough Council hopes that it will soon – within a month or two – be able to demonstrate that it has identified land sufficient to satisfy five years of objectively-assessed housing needs. Once it has done this, the policies in the Darlington Local Plan – including the limits to development – will again have weight in the Borough Council's decisions on planning applications. Specifically, this means that the Borough Council will be able to refuse planning permission for proposed developments that fall outside the Sadberge village envelope.

11. Planning

11.1 The Parish Council decided not to comment on planning application 17/01121/FUL, which is for a variation of the existing planning permission to allow alterations to the design of plots 1, 2 and 3 and alterations to the double garage on plot 1 at Lea Close.

Councillor Brian Jones left the meeting.

11.2 The Parish Council decided to object to planning application 18/00027/FUL – which is for the replacement of an existing single storey extension with a new extension with a balcony above at the rear of 16 Chapel Row – for the following reasons:

1. The proposed extension is out of scale with the current house and the surrounding properties. In particular, the Parish Council believes that any extension to 16 Chapel Row should not extend further than the backs of the neighbouring houses.
2. The proposed extension – and particularly the balcony – would overlook the neighbouring property to the north, causing a loss of privacy for the residents.
3. The proposed extension would overshadow the neighbouring property to the north, causing a loss of natural light to that property.

12. Speeding in Sadberge

The Parish Council noted local residents' concerns about vehicles speeding through Sadberge.

13. Risk assessment

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

14. Payments

The Parish Council approved the following payment:-

- Defibrillator pads £79.68

14. Agenda items for the next meeting

No agenda items were proposed for the next meeting.

15. 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 6-Mar-2018.

Alastair Mackenzie
Clerk to Sadberge Parish Council

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6th FEBRUARY 2018.

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

Signed: Councillor L Tate _____ Date _____