

# SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the meeting held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in Sadberge Village Hall

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

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

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Lazenby, and the reason for his absence was 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

3.1 The minutes of the meeting on 7-Aug-2018 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

3.2 The minutes of the meeting on 16-Aug-2018 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

The following comments were made:-

- The minutes do not fully covey the disagreements and emotion at the meeting on 16-Aug-2018.
- The details of the arrangements for making the payment towards the regeneration costs were sorted out by the Clerk after the meeting.

### 4. Bonfire Night event

4.1 The Bonfire Night Organiser gave the following report:-

- He has consulted various people about the options for organising a Bonfire Night event in 2018.
- The event has become too popular, partly due to social media. Too many people now want to attend.
- Traffic management professionals have advised that it is not practical to implement a traffic management scheme for the event.
- The aim has been to provide a community Bonfire Night event for village residents, not to provide a professional fireworks display for Darlington.
- The organiser of a public event of this nature has a responsibility to run a safe event. The Bonfire Night Organiser does not believe that he can run a safe Bonfire Night event in Town Farm Field in the current circumstances.

4.2 The Bonfire Night Organiser recommended that the Bonfire Night events should be discontinued, at least for the time being.

4.3 The Parish Council thanked David Elmer for organising the Bonfire Night events over the last three years.

4.4 It was decided not to organise a Bonfire Night event in 2018.

This decision will be advertised via:-

- A flyer to all Sadberge households. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- Notices in Town Farm Field. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- Social media. **ACTION:** David Elmer / Chris Smith

The Clerk will inform Darlington Borough Council that the Parish Council will not be organising a Bonfire Night event this year and will warn the Borough Council that people may decide to build their own, unofficial bonfire in Town Farm Field. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

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## 5. Darlington Road village garden

5.1 Work has started on the landscaping of the village garden at the Darlington Road entrance to Sadberge.

5.2 Darlington Borough Council is going to match the Parish Council's £3,000 contribution towards the costs of the regeneration.

There were questions about when the Borough Council first made its offer to provide funding and how the Borough Council was able to find money to support this project when it has been unable to find money for other purposes. Councillor Brian Jones is investigating.

5.3 The Parish Council agreed to hear representations from members of the public.

Two different Sadberge residents had written to the Parish Council to object to (i) the Parish Council's decision to provide a significant amount of funding for the regeneration of the village garden and (ii) the lack of prior consultation with villagers.

The following points were made during the discussion:

- Given the controversial nature of this issue, why did the Parish Council not consult Sadberge residents – e.g. via a flyer – before making a decision to provide funding?

Response: The agenda for the extra Parish Council meeting on 16-Aug-2018 was publicised three clear days before the meeting, in line with statutory requirements, and the Parish Council is entitled to make decisions on behalf of the Sadberge community. It is recognised, however, that some local residents would have liked there to be a wider consultation on this issue.

- Will the Parish Council have any liability for the village garden?

Response: No. As the landowner, Darlington Borough Council will be responsible for the village garden. The only way in which the Parish Council would become liable would be if it accepted a donation of the new bench, in which case it would be responsible for the bench and the bench would be covered by the Parish Council's insurance.

- Are there safety and/or liability issues associated with the pond in the village garden?

As the landowner, Darlington Borough Council will be responsible for the pond.

- The Darlington Road entrance to the village is not a suitable location for significant expenditure on a village garden, which is only likely to be used by a few dog walkers and cyclists. It would have been better to spend the money on improving the children's play area, which is currently in a very poor state.

5.4 The village garden will include a new memorial bench that will record the names of 18 men from Sadberge who died during the two World Wars. The bench is being paid for by a private donation.

## 6. World War I airfield plaque

6.1 Possible locations for the plaque are:

- Where the telephone box used to be, at the edge of the village green near the centre of the village.
- On the back of the jubilee stone.
- On an outside wall of the village hall.

6.2 The Clerk will ask Darlington Borough Council if it would be possible to relocate the litter bin near where the telephone box used to be. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

6.3 The Clerk will obtain costs for (a) a sandstone pillar large enough to display the plaque and (b) a brick plinth. The idea is for the plaque to be mounted on a sloping surface a bit lower than waist height. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 7. Christmas in St. Andrew's Church

Reverend Sue Chew gave the Parish Council an update on what will be happening in St. Andrew's Church over the 2018 Christmas period.

7.1 There are plans for the church to host a Christmas tree and a Christmas crib festival this year.

7.2 It is also being suggested that local groups decorate small Christmas trees, with each group's tree being decorated in a way that represents their activities.

- 7.3 There will be a poppy cross in the churchyard to mark the centenary of the end of World War I and 13 peace roses along the church path in memory of the Sadberge men who died during that war.

## 8. Village hall lease

- 8.1 The new lease has been completed.
- 8.2 The Parish Council agreed to give the Parochial Church Council a grant of £1,000 towards the legal costs involved in arranging the new lease, and approved the relevant payment.

## 9. Moor House Wind Farm Community Fund

- 9.1 The Clerk reported that the County Durham Community Foundation (CDCF) has processed the Parish Council's application for a grant for an air pollution monitoring instrument, and the application will be considered by the Moor House Community Fund Committee on Monday 1-Oct-2018.

It was agreed that if the grant is awarded then the Clerk will go ahead and order the air pollution monitoring instrument.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

- 9.2 The CDCF has not processed the Parish Council's other two grant applications.
- 9.3 Lorraine Tostevin had asked if Sadberge Parish Council would be willing to provide East and West Newbiggin Parish Meeting with a banking facility to enable the Parish Meeting to apply for a grant from the Moor House Wind Farm Community Fund. This would involve receiving the grant money and using it to pay invoices on behalf of the Parish Meeting.
- It was agreed that the Parish Council is willing to provide the requested banking facility.

## 10. Benches and bollards

- 10.1 Ernie Lowther has completed the maintenance work on the benches and bollards in and around Sadberge. The Parish Council thanked Ernie for his work.
- 10.2 The Parish Council agreed to pay £205.42 for materials for the bench and bollard maintenance, and approved the relevant payment.

## 11. Horse manure

A local resident had expressed concern about horse manure being deposited in the village during horse rides from the Cherry Tree Farm Riding Academy.

A representative of the riding academy gave an assurance that manure is cleared off pavements.

It was pointed out that there is no law against horse manure being left on roads.

## 12. Darlington Association of Parish Councils (DAPC)

The DAPC Annual General Meeting on 25-Jul-2018 was inquorate.

The DAPC Chairman, Derek Dowdell, is concerned about the lack of support for the association – including the lack of volunteers for the roles of Vice Chair and Clerk – and is considering whether the DAPC should be disbanded.

The Parish Council agreed the following response:-

- The DAPC meetings are very informative and the DAPC is a useful forum.
- The Parish Council would like the DAPC to continue.
- The Parish Council usually sends representatives to DAPC meetings, and will attempt to do so in future.

The Clerk will communicate the Parish Council's comments to Derek Dowdell.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 13. Planning

- 13.1 The Parish Council approved the following planning application:-
- 18/00776/FUL Erection of a two storey extension at the rear of 5 East Close.
- 13.2 The Parish Council decided to send a letter in support of the applicant's appeal against the refusal of planning permission for the erection of an agricultural worker's dwelling and a livestock barn at White

House Farm, Sadberge Road, Middleton St. George (application reference 17/01119/FUL), giving the following reasons:-

- The applicant and his family are well known in Sadberge. They have lived and worked in the village for several generations, and are known as responsible farmers who take good care of their livestock.
- The Parish Council is satisfied that the proposed agricultural worker's dwelling is needed for the expansion of the business. It would not be reasonable to expect a family with young children to live in temporary accommodation at White House Farm.
- The business expansion will promote employment in the rural area.
- The proposed house would not have any detrimental impact on the landscape or any existing residents.
- The proposed diversion of the footpaths is sensible.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

#### **14. Agenda items for the next meeting**

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

- Weeds in gutters.
- Additional plaque on the bench around the tree in the centre of the village.

#### **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 2-Oct-2018.

*Note from the Clerk: Due to an oversight, the agenda for the meeting on 2-Oct-2018 was not issued in time to meet the statutory requirements, so the meeting had to be rescheduled for Tuesday 9-Oct-2018.*

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#### **16. Matters arising from previous meetings**

Discussion of these issues was deferred until the next meeting.

#### **17. Land near Pleasant View**

Discussion of this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

#### **18. Street cleaning**

Discussion of this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

#### **19. Grit bin**

Discussion of this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

#### **20. Blocked drains**

Discussion of this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

#### **21. Vehicles and equipment on the village green**

Discussion of this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

#### **22. Parish Council land and property**

Discussion of this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

#### **23. Christmas tree**

Discussion of this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

**24. Cleveland Local Councils Association (CLCA)**

Discussion of this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018.

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

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