

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 9th October 2018 in Sadberge Village Hall

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

In attendance: Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

1. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Smith, and the reason for his absence was 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 11-Sep-2018 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from previous meetings

4.1 There was no news about the Parish Council's request for a footpath between Sadberge and Middleton St. George.

4.2 There was no news about the Darlington Local Plan.

4.3 There was no news about social media.

5. Bonfire Night event

5.1 The Parish Council reviewed the flyer that the Clerk had drawn up to inform Sadberge residents that there will not be a bonfire and fireworks display in Town Farm Field this year.

5.2 The Parish Council considered a request from the Buck Inn for a financial contribution towards the cost of putting on a fireworks display in the car park behind the pub on Bonfire Night.

The following points were made during the discussion:-

- A donation from the Parish Council would be used to buy additional fireworks.
- The fireworks display will be held on private land. It is not notifiable to the Public Events Safety Advisory Committee (PESAG). Darlington Borough Council is aware of the event, and a Borough Council officer has visited the Buck Inn.
- The number of people in the pub car park will be strictly controlled.
- Middleton St. George Parish Council and Mowden Park Rugby Club are putting on fireworks displays this year. The Middleton St. George event will take place on Sunday 4-Nov-2018.

In a show of hands by members of the public present at the meeting, 10 people were in favour of the Parish Council providing financial support for the Buck Inn event and 7 people were against.

5.3 The following motion was proposed:-

This Parish Council will give the Buck Inn a donation of £250 to support a Bonfire Night fireworks display.

The following amendment was proposed:-

Delete £250 and insert £750.

In a vote, the amendment was passed by 3 votes to 2. Therefore, the motion became:-

This Parish Council will give the Buck Inn a donation of £750 to support a Bonfire Night fireworks display.

/ continued

The motion was passed on the Chair's casting vote after the initial round of voting ended with 3 votes in favour and 3 votes against. The Parish Council will therefore give the Buck Inn a donation of £750 to support a Bonfire Night fireworks display. The Parish Council approved the relevant payment.

6. Darlington Road village garden

The landscaping work is complete. The Parish Council approved the payment of £6,000.00 for the work.

7. World War I airfield plaque

7.1 The Clerk had drawn up a specification for the support for the plaque. It was agreed that:-

- The dimensions look about right.
- A block of stone would be better than a brick structure.
- A limestone block would fit in with the existing Jubilee Stone on the village green.

In a show of hands by members of the public present at the meeting, the majority (14 people) were in favour of a block of stone.

7.2 Councillor Heywood will obtain a quote for a limestone block.

ACTION: Councillor Heywood

7.3 Darlington Borough Council has indicated that it should be possible to move the litter bin that is currently on the site of the old telephone box.

8. Moor House Wind Farm Community Fund

The Clerk has been told that the Community Fund Committee has agreed to award the Parish Council a grant to buy an air pollution monitoring instrument. However, there has not yet been a formal grant offer from the scheme's administrator.

9. Children's playground

9.1 Following a complaint from a local resident about the state of the children's playground off Abbey Road, Councillor Brian Jones has discussed the situation with senior officers in Darlington Borough Council.

The Borough Council would be prepared to move the children's playground to a more appropriate location – e.g. Town Farm Field or Hampass – and install new play equipment, but would need to find a source of funds.

Possible options for obtaining the necessary funding might be:-

- (a) Sell the land off Abbey Road for housing development. As the land is outside the Sadberge limits to development, planning permission could only be granted if there is an identified need for affordable housing in Sadberge. The Parish Council would need to carry out a housing needs survey. The construction of affordable housing (which could be rented, shared ownership or "discount to buy" housing) could be cross-subsidised by up to 50% market housing on the site.
- (b) Sell part of Town Farm Field for housing and install the play area on another part of Town Farm Field.

9.2 Someone had distributed a rather misleading flyer to households in Abbey Road and Dale Road, implying that a Village Meeting was being held at short notice to discuss a proposal to build houses on the site of the children's play area.

9.3 The Clerk read out a letter from two Abbey Road residents.

9.4 The following points were made during the discussion:-

- There has been a play area in the current location for 40 years.
- There is a need for a children's play area in Sadberge.
- How many children are there in the village?
- It should be possible to improve the existing play area; e.g. by installing soakaways to improve drainage.

9.5 The Parish Council decided to send out a flyer / survey asking Sadberge households:-

- How many children are there in the household? (Age ranges 0 – 5, 6 – 10, 11 – 16.)
- How often do they use the play area?
- How often would they use the play area if it was refurbished / improved?
- Where would they prefer the play area to be located? (Current location, Town Farm Field or Hampass.)

The survey should also cover children (e.g. grandchildren of Sadberge residents) who visit the village on a regular basis.

It was decided not to include any questions about whether people would support raising funds for a new / improved play area by allowing affordable housing to be built on the site of the existing play area.

The Clerk will prepare a flyer / survey and arrange for it to be distributed to Sadberge households.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

10. Christmas tree

10.1 The Parish Council agreed to put a Christmas tree on the village green this year and allocated a budget of up to £250.

10.2 Councillor Heath will obtain a suitable tree.

ACTION: Councillor Heath

11. Darlington Association of Parish Councils (DAPC)

Councillor Tate will attend the DAPC meeting on Wednesday 24-Oct-2018.

12. Cleveland Local Councils Association (CLCA)

Councillor Heath attended the meeting with the Tees Valley Mayor on 28-Jun-2018.

During the meeting it was stated that work on the new bypass around the north-east of Darlington will not start for at least 8 – 9 years.

13. Planning

13.1 The Parish Council approved the following planning application:-

- 18/00830/FUL Erection of a stable block and modifications to access arrangements at Ashtree Cottage, Sadberge Road, Middleton St. George.

13.2 The Parish Council objected to planning application 18/00807/FUL – which is for the erection of a detached oak-framed house on land adjacent to Rowan House, Middleton Road – on the grounds that the proposed development would be outside the Sadberge limits to development.

13.3 The Parish Council objected to planning application 18/00784/CU – which is for change of use from a writing studio to a one bedroom dwelling below 6A West Row – on the grounds that when permission was granted for the change of use from a garage to a writing studio it was stipulated that if the studio stopped being used as a writing studio it would revert to being a garage.

14. Street cleaning

Discussion of this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

15. Grit bin

Discussion of this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

16. Blocked drains

Discussion of this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

17. Parish Council land and property

Discussion of this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

18. Additional plaque for the new seat around the oak tree in the centre of the village

Discussion of this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

19. Correspondence

Discussion of this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

20. Agenda items for the next meeting

The following agenda item was proposed for the next meeting:-

- Offer of trees for the village.

21. 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 13-Nov-2018.

Alastair Mackenzie
Clerk to Sadberge Parish Council

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th OCTOBER 2018.

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

Signed: Councillor L Tate _____ Date _____