

# SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the meeting held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in Sadberge Village Hall

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

**In attendance:** Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

### 1. Apologies

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 9-Oct-2018 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

### 4. Matters arising from previous meetings

- 4.1 The Bonfire Night fireworks display behind the Buck Inn went well. Approximately 400 people attended the event.
- 4.2 There was no news about the Darlington Local Plan.
- 4.3 The Christmas tree for the village green will be delivered on Friday 23-Nov-2018. It was agreed that working party will erect the tree at 10 a.m. on Saturday 24-Nov-2018.
- 4.4 There was no news about social media.

### 5. Moor House Wind Farm Community Fund

- 5.1 At its meeting on 1-Oct-2018, the Moor House Funding Committee decided to give the Parish Council the grant to buy an air pollution monitoring instrument.
- 5.2 However, the Banks Community Fund panel subsequently vetoed the awarding of the grant on the grounds that air quality monitoring is a statutory obligation for Darlington Borough Council and the Borough Council has said that air quality is not an issue in the Borough of Darlington.  
The Clerk has written to Banks pointing out that giving Sadberge Parish Council a grant to buy an air pollution instrument would not be subsidising a government body to meet a statutory duty. The instrument would be used for additional local monitoring that goes beyond the statutory requirements, in the same way that deploying a vehicle activated speed sign represents additional local community action that goes beyond the police's statutory duties regarding speeding.
- 5.3 It was agreed to wait for Banks' response to the Clerk's letter before deciding further action.

### 6. World War I airfield plaque

- 6.1 Dunhouse Quarry has provided a quote for a sandstone block with a sloping top suitable for displaying the plaque.  
The Clerk will check the installation cost (if any). **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 6.2 Councillor Heywood will obtain a quote for an equivalent limestone block.  
**ACTION:** Councillor Heywood
- 6.3 Councillor Schott will provide a quote for a steel frame. **ACTION:** Councillor Schott

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## 7. Children's playground

- 7.1 The Clerk presented drafts of (i) a flyer explaining the situation regarding the children's play area and (ii) a questionnaire about the numbers of children and residents' preferences about the location of the play area.
- 7.2 After discussion, it was agreed that the flyer should include the Borough Council's suggestion that funding to relocate and renovate the play area would need to come from selling the existing site for development and that the questionnaire should include a question about whether residents would support obtaining the necessary funding in this way. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 8. Defibrillators

- 8.1 The defibrillator in the centre of the village has been giving error indications saying that there is a problem with its battery. The Clerk has found that the error indication goes away if he takes the defibrillator into his house, removes the battery, leaves it for about half an hour and then re-inserts it. It is likely that the problem is being caused by moisture in the defibrillator. A humidity meter in the cabinet has been giving very high humidity readings.
- 8.2 The Clerk will contact the defibrillator manufacturer to seek advice. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 8.3 The location under the large oak tree may be contributing to the high humidity in the defibrillator cabinet. The Clerk will investigate the possibility of moving the defibrillator cabinet to an alternative location in the centre of the village. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 9. Street cleaning

- 9.1 A local resident has suggested that the Parish Council could employ someone to clean the weeds in the gutters around the village and to maintain the village entrances on Middleton Road and Darlington Road.
- 9.2 It was pointed out that street cleaning is Darlington Borough Council's responsibility. It was agreed to ask the Borough Council to clean the gutters in Sadberge. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 10. Grit bin

A local resident has suggested that it would be useful to have an additional grit bin near the junction of Stockton Road and the A66. It was agreed to ask Darlington Borough Council to provide a grit bin in this location. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 11. Blocked drains

It was agreed to ask the Borough Council to clean the drains in and around Sadberge. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 12. Obstructed footpaths

The Clerk will contact Darlington Borough Council to check what has been done about removing encroaching vegetation from the footpath along Stockton Road and installing a drop kerb where the footpath ends at the layby near Stockton Road's junction with the A66. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 13. Dog dirt

- 13.1 A local resident has expressed concern about dog dirt on pavements in Sadberge.
- 13.2 It was reported that a private company has been given the job of enforcing dog fouling regulations in Darlington. The Clerk will find out more about this and report back at the next meeting. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 14. Christmas Tree Festival in St. Andrew's Church

There is going to be a Christmas Tree Festival in St. Andrew's Church. The Parish Council agreed to sponsor a tree and approved the relevant payment (£10).

## 15. Parish Council land and property

The Parish Council reviewed the issues that arose during the inspection tour of Parish Council land and property on 7-Aug-2018.

- 15.1 Councillor Lazenby has removed the suckers from the base of the tree at the northern edge of the main part of the village green.
- 15.2 Ernie Lowther has done the necessary work on the wooden benches and bollards.
- 15.3 Next Spring, the Parish Council will make arrangements to treat the wood of the planters on the village green near Hill House Lane.
- 15.4 Councillor Schott has still to fit a barrier across the gap between the garages opposite Pleasant View.  
**ACTION:** Councillor Schott

## 16. Planning

The Parish Council decided not to comment on the following planning application:-

- 18/10005/FUL Demolition of existing detached garage and erection of a new garage at 12 Beacon Hill Bungalows.

## 17. Clerk to the Parish Council

- 17.1 The Parish Council noted that the current Clerk is resigning with effect from the end of March 2019.
- 17.2 The Clerk will send the Parish Councillors a copy of the current job description.  
**ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 17.3 It will be necessary to draft a job advertisement that will include (a) a specification of the role, including an indication of the number of hours per month, (b) an overview of the personal qualities required by the job-holder and (c) an indication of the salary.

## 18. Budget for 2019-20

- 18.1 The Clerk presented the Parish Council's expenditure versus budget for the financial year to date and a forecast of the expenditure during the remainder of the financial year. It was agreed that the financial position is satisfactory.
- 18.2 The following points were made during the discussion about the budget for 2019-20:-
  - The Parish Council should have a strategy for improving the village environment. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
  - It would be useful to have information about the guidelines on reserves.  
**ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 18.3 It was decided to defer the final decisions on the budget and precept for 2019-20 until the next meeting.

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

- 19.1 Councillor Tate attended the DAPC meeting on 24-Oct-2018.
- 19.2 The DAPC currently does not have a clerk, and the chairman is finding it difficult to keep the organisation going.
- 19.3 The Parish Council agreed in principle to make a financial contribution to enable the DAPC to pay for administrative support and suggested that member councils should make contributions in proportion to their turnover.

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

The Parish Council approved the following wording for the plaque to recognise Beatrice Cuthbertson's contribution to Sadberge:-

*In appreciation of many years of dedicated service to our community  
Councillor Beatrice Cuthbertson MBE Former Mayor of Darlington*

**21. Correspondence**

The Parish Council noted the following correspondence:-

- Request for a donation towards the Great North Air Ambulance.

**22. Agenda items for the next meeting**

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

- Proposed development at South Newton Grange.
- Offer of trees.
- The future of the community composting facility.

**23. 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 11-Dec-2018.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018.

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

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