

# SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

---

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

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

**In attendance:** Councillor Brian Jones Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Best, and the reason for his absence was approved.

### 2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Councillor Schott declared an interest in item 17 – World War I airfield plaque.

### 3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 13-Nov-2018 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

### 4. Matters arising from previous meetings

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

The Parish Council approved the payment of £204.00 for the tree.

4.2 The Parish Council agreed to provide a Christmas tree recycling service in conjunction with St. Teresa's Hospice and the Darlington Rotary Club. The arrangements will be the same as in previous years. On Saturday 5-Jan-2018 Rotary Club members will pick up trees from the collection point just inside the Town Farm Field entrance. The Parish Council will give St. Teresa's Hospice a donation of £60 for up to 15 trees, and will have the option to ask the Rotary Club to collect any additional trees for an additional donation of £4 per tree.

4.3 The Clerk will send out a flyer to inform Sadberge households about the tree recycling service.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

4.4 A plaque recognising Beatrice Cuthbertson's service to the Sadberge community has been installed on the bench around the oak tree in the centre of the village.

4.5 Nothing important had come up on social media since the last meeting.

### 5. Children's playground

5.1 The Clerk presented a summary of the results from the questionnaire about options for improving the condition of the children's play area.

- Of the responses that specified a preferred location for a children's play area in Sadberge, 53% said the current location, 27% said Town Farm Field and 20% said Hampass.
- On the question of allowing affordable housing to be built on the site of the current play area in order to generate funds to relocate and renovate the play area, 57% of respondents were opposed or strongly opposed to the proposal, 13% were neutral and 30% supported or strongly supported the proposal.

5.2 A local resident is going to apply for grants for the renovation of the play area. Darlington Borough Council would retain responsibility for the renovated play area.

5.3 It was agreed that the Parish Council does not support allowing development on the current play area site in order to generate funds to renovate the play area and that the play area should be improved in its current location. Councillor Brian Jones will communicate the Parish Council's views to the relevant Darlington Borough Council officers. **ACTION:** Councillor Brian Jones

*/ continued*

## 6. Planning

- 6.1 The Parish Council discussed planning application 18/00994/FUL, which is for the erection of 25 dwellings on land on Newton Grange Farm (between Stockton Road and the children's play area).

One of the applicants, Ronnie Baird, gave an overview of the application.

- The development would consist of 25 detached houses.
- The applicants' preference is that none of the new houses would be classified as affordable, but the developers would provide a financial contribution to build affordable housing elsewhere. The new houses would probably cost at least £200k - £250k, but the Government's Help to Buy scheme would help people to be able to afford to buy them.
- The developer has a contract to buy the site subject to planning permission being granted.
- The developers believe that Darlington Borough Council is not able to defend its claim that it has identified a five year supply of land to meet objectively assessed housing requirements, and that if the Borough Council refuses planning permission then the developers would win an appeal.

The Clerk reported that Darlington Borough Council's Planning Policy Manager believes that the Borough Council can defend its planning policies.

The following comments were made during the discussion:-

- The responses to the Sadberge Parish Plan questionnaires showed that Sadberge residents do not want any significant development in or around the village.
- Sadberge is not a sustainable location for development. The bus service only operates one day per week and, contrary to what was said in the Planning Statement, there are no shops in Sadberge.
- The access to the site is from a road with a 60 mph speed limit.
- There is a 36" water main running under the site.
- The rate of housebuilding in Middleton St. George had to be reduced because of problems selling houses.

The Parish Council decided to object to this planning application on the following grounds:-

- The proposed development would be outside the Sadberge limits to development and it does not meet the requirements of the Rural Exceptions policy.
- Sadberge is not a suitable location for sustainable development.
- The proposed development would be contrary to the wishes of the Sadberge community, as expressed in the Sadberge Parish Plan.

- 6.2 The Parish Council decided not to comment on the revised application 18/10005/FUL, which is for the demolition of an existing detached garage and erection of a new garage at 12 Beacon Hill Bungalows.

- 6.3 The Parish Council noted the outcome of the following planning application:-

- Granted 18/00784/CU Change of use from a writing studio to a one bedroom dwelling below 6A West Row.

## 7. Composting facility

It was decided to continue to operate the community composting facility for the time being.

## 8. Proposed development at South Newton Grange

The Parish Council supports the idea of opening a farm shop at South Newton Grange, but is concerned about the safety of the access from the A66.

## 9. Churchyard wall

- 9.1 Part of the St. Andrew's churchyard wall along West Row is in imminent danger of collapse. It has been estimated that demolishing and rebuilding the relevant section of wall will cost

approximately £6,500, which represents over half of the Parochial Church Council's available funds, including reserves.

- 9.2 The Parochial Church Council had asked the Parish Council if it would be prepared to make a contribution towards the repair costs.
- 9.3 After discussion and votes, the Parish Council decided to give the Sadberge Parochial Church Council a grant of £1,000 towards the cost of repairing the churchyard wall, and approved the relevant payment.

## 10. Bronze statue

*Note from the Clerk: In 2015, a local resident offered to provide funding for a bronze sculpture for Sadberge village green. The donor's preference is for a life size human figure, and one suggestion was a sculpture of an elderly man sitting on a bench under the oak tree in the centre of the village. The Clerk investigated a number of options, including running a competition for students at local arts colleges (there were no entries), commissioning a local artist to create a bespoke sculpture (too expensive) or getting a copy of an existing sculpture (still too expensive). The donor had subsequently asked the Clerk to keep an eye open for a suitable sculpture coming up for sale; e.g. on eBay.*

- 10.1 The Clerk reported that he had found an opportunity to buy a large-scale reproduction of Rodin's sculpture "The Thinker" for a price within the donor's guideline budget. This would be an interesting piece of sculpture for Sadberge village green, but some people have expressed concern that The Thinker has no connection with Sadberge and might not be appropriate for a rural village setting.
- 10.2 The Parish Council agreed that it would, in principal, be prepared to accept a donation of a bronze sculpture or funds to buy a bronze sculpture.
- 10.3 The Clerk will arrange to send out a flyer to inform Sadberge households about the offer and asking them whether they would support (a) getting the reproduction of The Thinker, (b) continuing to look for a more suitable sculpture or (c) giving up on the idea of getting a bronze sculpture for the village green.  
**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 11. Dog fouling

The Clerk has still to contact Darlington Borough Council to find out more about the options enforcing dog fouling regulations.  
**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 12. Offer of trees

The Parish Council agree to accept a local resident's offer to donate five trees to be planted on Parish Council land in Sadberge. The locations for the trees will be decided in the Spring.

## 13. Durham Tees Valley Airport

- 13.1 The Tees Valley Mayor, Ben Houchen, has secured a deal to buy Durham Tees Valley Airport from Peel. The deal will only go ahead if it has the support of the leaders of the five Tees Valley local councils, including Darlington Borough Council.
- 13.2 It was agreed to write to the leader of Darlington Borough Council asking him to support the Tees Valley Mayor's plans to take the airport into public ownership.  
**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 14. Strategy for improving the Sadberge village environment

Discussion of this topic was deferred until a future meeting.

## 15. Budget for 2019-20

- 15.1 After discussion, the Parish Council approved the budget for 2019-20. See Appendix 1.
- 15.2 The precept for 2018-20 will be £12,000. The Clerk will communicate this to Darlington Borough Council.  
**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 16. Moor House Wind Farm Community Fund

- 16.1 It was decided to appeal against the Moor House Community Fund's decision to refuse the Parish Council a grant to buy an air pollution monitoring instrument. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 16.2 It may be possible to apply to Darlington Borough Council for a grant for a solar panel for the existing vehicle activated speed sign. The Clerk will investigate.  
**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 17. World War I airfield plaque

- 17.1 Councillor Schott presented a quote for a galvanized steel frame for the World War I airfield plaque.
- 17.2 Councillor Heywood had obtained an improved quote for a sandstone block to support the plaque.
- 17.3 A limestone block would not be suitable for supporting the plaque.

Councillor Schott left the meeting.

- 17.4 The Parish Council agreed to obtain a sandstone block for the plaque, and set a budget to cover the purchase and installation costs. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie / Councillor Heywood

Councillor Schott re-joined the meeting.

## 18. Defibrillators

The defibrillator in the centre of the village has been giving battery error indications, probably due to high humidity in the defibrillator cabinet.

- 18.1 The Clerk has contacted the manufacturer's European agent, which is based in Germany. It would be possible to send the defibrillator to Germany for inspection.
- 18.2 The high humidity may be due to the cabinet being under the branches of the large oak tree in the centre of the village. Darlington Borough Council would charge about £170 to move the cabinet to a different location. The new location would need to be near a lamp post in order to provide a power supply to the cabinet.

It was decided to move the defibrillator cabinet to a different location near the centre of the village.

**ACTION:** A Mackenzie

## 19. Clerk to the Parish Council

- 19.1 It was agreed that the flyer about the Christmas tree recycling arrangements will also include the news that the Parish Council will shortly be advertising a vacancy for the role of Clerk to the Parish Council. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 19.2 The arrangements for recruiting a new Clerk will be discussed at the next meeting.

## 20. Agenda items for the next meeting

No agenda items were proposed for the next meeting.

## 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 8-Jan-2019.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

## SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

**BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD 1-APR-2019 to 31-MAR-2020****SOURCES OF FUNDS**

	£	£	<u>Notes</u>
Balance brought forward		14,703	
Income			
Precept	12,000		
Donations	0		
Interest on bank accounts	0		
	-----		
Total income		12,000	
		-----	
Total funds available		26,703	

**USES OF FUNDS**

	£	£	<u>Notes</u>
Expenditure			
Clerk's salary	6,000		
Contribution towards the cost of keeping St. Andrew's churchyard tidy	500		
Insurance premium	380		
Audit fee	150		
Subscriptions	130		Cleveland Local Councils Association
Meeting room hire	250		
Contribution towards DAPC costs	250		
Maintenance and repairs	1,000		
Christmas tree	240		
Village Festival	1,000		
Bonfire Night event	1,500		
Training	150		
Newsletters	120		
Office supplies	250		
	-----		
Total expenditure		11,920	
Contingency / Balance carried forward		14,783	

**This budget was approved by Sadberge Parish Council on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018.**