

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 8^h January 2019 in Sadberge Village Hall

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

In attendance: Councillor Brian Jones Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

1. Apologies

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

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Item 15.2 in minutes of the meeting on 11-Dec-2018 should have referred to “the precept for 2019-20”. With this correction, the minutes were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

4. Clerk to the Parish Council

- 4.1 It was decided to set up a Clerk Recruitment Committee to make the arrangements to recruit a new Clerk.
- 4.2 Councillor Tate, Councillor Best, Councillor Heywood and Councillor Lazenby were appointed as members of the Committee.
- 4.3 The remit of the Committee is:-
 - To draw up a job specification for the Clerk's role.
 - To set an indicative salary range.
 - To prepare and issue an advertisement.
- 4.4 The interviews will be done by the Parish Council.
- 4.5 The aim is to issue the advertisement by the end of January and to allow ten days for replies. Advertising will be done via the village notice boards, the Sadberge web site, the Cleveland Local Councils Association (CLCA) and Middleton St. George.

5. Matters arising from previous meetings

- 5.1 The Parochial Church Council has sent a letter of thanks for the grant towards the cost of repairing the St. Andrew's churchyard wall.
- 5.2 Councillor Heywood and the Clerk have still to arrange the purchase and installation of a sandstone block to display the World War I airfield plaque.

ACTION: Councillor Heywood / A Mackenzie
- 5.3 The results from the questionnaire about the bronze sculpture for the village green were strongly in favour of continuing to look for a more suitable sculpture rather than buying “The Thinker”.
- 5.4 The Clerk has still to get the defibrillator cabinet moved to a different location near the centre of the village.

ACTION: A Mackenzie
- 5.5 A representative from OpenReach had asked the Clerk whether they could close the complaint about the large new telephone pole that had been installed on Sadberge village green without consultation or the Parish Council's permission. The Clerk told OpenReach that the Parish Council had still not had an acceptable response to the complaint.
- 5.6 The Clerk has submitted the appeal against the Banks Community Fund's decision to refuse the Parish Council's application for a grant to buy an air pollution monitoring instrument.

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- 5.7 The Clerk has written to the Darlington Borough Council Leader to ask him to support the Tees Valley Mayor's plan to take Durham Tees Valley Airport back into public ownership.
- 5.8 There have been reports on social media that the central village garden site will soon be cleared in preparation for development.

6. Christmas tree collection

- 6.1 On Saturday 5-Jan-2019, volunteers from the Darlington Rotary Club picked up 34 Christmas trees from the collection point just inside the entrance to Town Farm Field.
- 6.2 The Parish Council approved the payment of a £136 donation to St. Teresa's Hospice.

7. Obstructed footpath along Stockton Road

- 7.1 Darlington Borough Council's horticulture team have been asked to clear the vegetation off the footpath along Stockton Road.
- 7.2 It was pointed out that the footpath along the west edge of Middleton Road between Church Lane and The Rectory is also obstructed. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

8. Drop kerb on Stockton Road at the old A66 lay-by

Darlington Borough Council's Highways Department has agreed to install a drop kerb where the Stockton Road footpath ends at the old A66 lay-by.

9. Additional grit bin on Stockton Road near its junction with the A66

- 9.1 After carrying out an assessment, Darlington Borough Council's Highways Department has decided that it will not install a grit bin near the junction of Stockton Road and the A66.
- 9.2 It may be possible for the Parish Council to fund the installation and maintenance of a grit bin at this location. The Clerk will find out what the costs would be. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

10. Blocked drains

Darlington Borough Council has brought forward the scheduled drain cleaning in Sadberge. The work will now take place during the week commencing 14-Jan-2019.

11. Dog fouling

- 11.1 The private company that is issuing on-the-spot fines for antisocial behaviour in Darlington is mainly concentrating in littering in the town centre.
- 11.2 Councillor Nick Wallis, the Darlington Borough Council Cabinet member with responsibility for Leisure and Local Environment, has offered to attend a Sadberge Parish Council meeting to discuss what can be done about dog fouling in Sadberge. It was decided to accept this offer. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

12. Strategy for improving the Sadberge village environment

- 12.1 Ideas for improving the village environment include:-
- Renovating the children's play area.
 - Making improvements to the village hall.
 - Providing open air gym equipment.
 - Keeping gutters clean.
 - Maintaining pavements in the village.
 - Maintaining the public footpaths in the countryside around the village.
- 12.2 It was agreed to put this topic on the agenda for the Sadberge Parish Meeting, which will take place in May.
- 12.3 It was agreed to invite Darlington Borough Council's Street Cleansing Manager to come along to the Parish Meeting. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

13. Planning

13.1 The Parish Council approved planning application 18/01101/CU, which is for retrospective permission for the change of use of land to form an additional car parking area at the Akbar Dynasty, subject to the following conditions:-

- Effective screening is installed along the northern and western edges of the car parking area in order to prevent noise and light from vehicles from causing disturbance to nearby residential properties (e.g. Rectory Farm, Holly Cottage and Newton Grange Farm).
- The lights around the car parking area are angled downwards so that the light does not cause disturbance to nearby residential properties.

14. Agenda items for the next meeting

The following agenda items were proposed for the next meeting:

- Pedestrian crossing(s) in the centre of Sadberge.
- Heavy goods vehicles travelling through Sadberge.

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 12-Feb-2019.

Alastair Mackenzie
Clerk to Sadberge Parish Council

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8th JANUARY 2019.

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

Signed: Councillor L Tate _____

Date _____