

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday 8th May 2019 in Sadberge Village Hall

Present: Councillors Tate, Best, Heywood, Lazenby and Murphy

In attendance: Councillor Brian Jones Alastair Mackenzie – Assistant Clerk

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

- 1.1 Councillor Tate was elected as Chair of the Parish Council for the coming year.
- 1.2 Councillor Murphy was elected as Vice-Chair.
- 1.3 Councillors Tate and Murphy signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office.

2. Apologies

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

3. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 9-Apr-2019 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

5. Vacancy on the Parish Council

- 5.1 There were only six nominations for the Parish Council in the 2019 local elections, so there is a vacancy on the Parish Council.
- 5.2 Having taken advice from Darlington Borough Council's Democratic Services Manager, the Assistant Clerk presented a draft procedure for co-opting a Sadberge parish councillor. The Parish Council approved the procedure.
- 5.3 It was agreed to advertise the vacancy on the Parish Council, with a view to co-opting a parish councillor at the next meeting. The deadline for people to submit expressions of interest will be 5 p.m. on Friday 24-May-2019. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

6. Clerk to the Parish Council

- 6.1 Martin Peagam has resigned from the role of Clerk to the Parish Council due to personal circumstances.
- 6.2 The Parish Council appointed Alastair Mackenzie as Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer until 30-Jun-2019 or a new Clerk is appointed, whichever comes first.
- 6.3 It was agreed to advertise the job of Clerk to the Parish Council. The deadline for applications will be 5 p.m. on Friday 24-May-2019. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 6.4 There will be a special meeting of the Parish Council at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 28-May-2019 to interview candidates for the job of Clerk and to decide on a job offer.

7. Matters arising from previous meetings

- 7.1 There was no news about the installation of a Virgin Media cable to East View.
- 7.2 Councillor Heywood has still to arrange the purchase of a sandstone boulder to display the World War I airfield plaque. **ACTION:** Councillor Heywood
Councillor Best will arrange the groundworks for the installation of the boulder. **ACTION:** Councillor Best
- 7.3 The Assistant Clerk has applied to Openreach for a one-off wayleave payment.

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- 7.4 There had been no response to Martin Peagam's email to Darlington Borough Council's Chief Executive about improving the children's play area. The Assistant Clerk will follow this up.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

- 7.5 There was no news about the Parish Council's request for Darlington Borough Council to improve the signage for the 7.5 te weight limit in Hill House Lane.

- 7.6 There was no news about the Parish Council's request for Darlington Borough Council to install pedestrian crossings on Middleton Road and Darlington Road in the centre of Sadberge.

- 7.7 The new defibrillator has arrived.

The Parish Council approved the £302.60 payment for moving the defibrillator cabinet in the centre of the village once the cabinet has been moved.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

- 7.8 Nothing significant had appeared on social media since the last meeting.

8. Sheep sculptures

- 8.1 Taking account of the advice from the Sadberge Parish Meeting, the Parish Council decided that the sheep sculptures will be installed in the following locations:-

- Two sheep will be installed on the triangle of village green under the oak tree in the centre of the village.
- Two sheep will be located in the south-west corner of the main part of the village green (near the Parish Council notice board).
- Two sheep will be located on the village green in front of the Old Post Office.

- 8.2 The Assistant Clerk will ask Councillor Schott to go ahead with the installation once the sculptures arrive.

ACTION: A Mackenzie / Councillor Schott

9. Planning

- 9.1 After discussion, it was decided to **object** to planning application 19/00339/OUT, which is for outline permission for the erection of up to 46 houses on the former reservoir site off Darlington Road, for the following reasons:-

1. The proposed changes to the design of the development are so fundamental that this should be treated as a new application rather than as an application for variation of a condition attached to an existing permission.
2. The proposed development is outside the Sadberge limits to development, and development should not be allowed in this location.
3. Sadberge is not a suitable location for sustainable development.
4. A key purpose of the Sadberge Conservation Area was to "safeguard the appearance of a ridge village in the landscape". The proposed development would destroy that aspect of the village's character.
5. The proposed development would be detrimental to the community spirit and quality of life in Sadberge.

- 9.2 The following planning application was approved without comment:-

- 19/00343/ADV Display signs at the NCDL Rehoming Centre on Hill House Lane.

10. Strategy for improving the village environment

The Parish Council noted the discussion on this subject that had taken place during the Sadberge Parish Meeting

11. Waste bins

After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council is prepared to contribute half of the cost of replacing the concrete waste bins in and around Sadberge with metal ones, subject to a maximum contribution of £100 per bin and a maximum total contribution of £500.

There are concrete bins in the following locations:- (1) Opposite the Tuns at Sadberge. (2) Near the brick bus shelter. (3) In the village garden at the Darlington Road entrance to the village. (4) Beside Middleton Road south of the village. (5) Beside Stockton Road south-east of the village.

12. Fly tipping

The Clerk will ask Darlington Borough Council to remove material that has been fly tipped in (i) the layby on Darlington Road near Beacon Hill Bungalows and (ii) the old A66 layby.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

13. Moor House Wind Farm Community Fund

There was no news about the Parish Council's grant applications to the Moor House Community Fund.

14. Insurance

After discussion, the Parish Council decided to renew its insurance with Inspire on a three-year Long Term Agreement and approved the payment of the insurance premium for 2019-20 (£352.85).

ACTION: A Mackenzie

15. Accounts and Annual Report for 2018-19

15.1 Approval of the Register of Assets was deferred until the next meeting.

15.2 The Clerk had presented the draft accounts for the year ended 31-Mar-2019 to the Parish Meeting.

15.3 The Parish Council decided to certify that it is exempt from a limited assurance review by the external auditor for the financial year ended 31-Mar-2019. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

15.4 The Parish Council re-confirmed the appointment of Megan Myszkas as Internal Auditor.

15.5 Approval of the Annual Governance Statements in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return was deferred until the next meeting.

16. Village Hall lighting and electrical systems

Consideration of this topic was deferred until a future meeting.

17. Councillor training course

The Parish Council noted that the County Durham and Cleveland County Training Partnership is putting on a Councillor Training Course on Wednesday 19-Jun-2019.

18. Payments

18.1 The Parish Council approved the following payment:-

- Printing expenses £166.60

18.2 The Parish Council confirmed that it had previously approved a payment of £100 to the Darlington Association of Parish Councils (DAPC) as a contribution towards DAPC costs.

19. Agenda items for the next meeting

The following agenda items were proposed for the next meeting:

- Condition of the roads in Sadberge.
- Access from The Orchard to East Close.

20. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held 7 p.m. on Tuesday 11-Jun-2019

Alastair Mackenzie
Assistant Clerk to Sadberge Parish Council

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

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

Signed: Councillor L Tate _____ Date _____