

Broomhaugh & Riding Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th January 2009 in the Supper room of the Parish Hall at 7.45pm

Present: Councillors Tulip, Williams, Mills, Reid, Dunhill, Heslop and Stephenson. Also present were 4 members of the public and one member of the Press.

1. Apologies were received from Cllr Eakins, Cllr Latham and Cllr Dale.

2. Minutes of last meeting: The minutes were agreed as a true record subject, in this instance, to the Chairman and Councillors agreeing to a small amendment from a member of the public.

3. Matters arising: a) Trees at the Wellington: It was noted they had been cut back.
b) The No-Smoking signs were now up in the bus shelters.

4. Playpark: The repair on all the washers was nearly complete. A quote from the fencer to replace the roofs on the small climbing frame had been received and was about £100 less than that from Playdale. It was agreed to leave the repair for now as the situation was not serious and the money should be conserved. There was some discussion about the mole problem. Although details of two mole catchers had been provided, it was agreed to see what they could do and for how much. It was also agreed that chemicals were not desirable in a Playpark. There was consensus that brushing the soil was possibly the best thing that could be done. With respect to the cut saplings, it was again agreed to avoid the use of chemicals but to manage them better from now.

5. Pedestrian Crossing: Cllr Tulip had met with Cllr Dale at County Hall about this issue. The person dealing with the matter had now left. As previously reported the survey last summer indicated the County's criteria could not be met. The implication, however, was that if we paid, and it was safe, we could have a crossing. In September they did a second survey with that in mind. Generally, a Zebra crossing cannot be placed on an 'A' class road. The school are in favour of a crossing so the Parish Council will continue to pursue the issue.

6. Working Groups: Cllr Tulip had suggested that there be several Working Groups of Councillors to look at a number of issues. Some Councillors had expressed interest in certain groups so it was agreed that they should be as follows:

Finance: Cllrs Eakins and Williams
Covenants: Cllrs Reid and Mills
Charter: Cllrs Dunhill and Heslop
Community : Cllrs Stephenson and Dunhill

Cllr Tulip and the Clerk would liaise with all Groups. Each Group will develop Terms of Reference and bring them to the table for discussion.

7. Village Green: Cllr Tulip presented an update on this matter. There had been a meeting held recently, called by the County's principal solicitor Stephen Rickitt, and he chaired the meeting. Essentially the application is likely to fail and he is not prepared to hold a public enquiry on a point of Law which would fail. This followed Counsel's Opinion relating to another village green enquiry the County are involved in which highlighted a particular legal point. He had brought copies of the Opinion for the applicants and other parties. Mr Tully had written about the Declaration of Trust and it was noted the application had to run its course. However, Mr Rickitt was of the opinion that the Declaration of Trust was inherent in the 1973 conveyance. One possible outcome was for the Parish Council to register the land, outside of the tennis courts, as village green. Mr Rickitt would write summarising the position and the options. It was agreed to wait until this was done before considering further action.

8. Freedom of Information: The new template was agreed by Councillors and would go onto the website. A summary sheet would be placed on the Notice Board.

9. Correspondence: a) General.

b) Hexham Courant: Cllr Stephenson agreed to do the piece for the Spring publication about the village.

c) The quotes for the Grass cutting in Millfield Road were accepted.

10. Finance:

The financial statement and receipts were accepted by all Councillors.

The following payments were authorised by all councillors:-

M F Anderton/Salary/December	£391.00
M F Anderton/Expenses/December	£48.56
Village Hall trust/rent	£55.00
Tynedale council/dog bin	£299.23
Transfer to D/Ac of Beacon Fund Towards bus shelter	£1,700.00

S.137 Donations: It was agreed to give £50 to each of the following organisations: Samaritans; Mencap; Age Concern; Northumberland Theatre Company; Tynedale Community Hospice and Tynedale CAB.

11. Minor matters: Cllr Reid raised the possibility of a bus shelter at the west end of the village. It was noted this had not been included in the budget for next year but could be looked at at the end of the current financial year

Cllr Heslop raised the matter of a village Clean up day. It was agreed to leave to the Community Group to liaise on the matter though all were in general agreement.

Cllr Dunhill summarised the recent meeting re Charter. He was of the opinion, and Councillors agreed, that the existing relation with the East Tynedale Forum was probably the best way forward but it appeared to be a very flexible situation with a lot of scope for accommodation.

Date for APM: the Clerk would check on the availability of the Halls in May so that more Councillors will be at the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.40.