

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Blennerhasset and Baggrow Social Centre  
on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 at 7.30pm**

**1859. Present**

Cllrs. Richardson, Raine, Powley, Mrs. J. Bowe, Ms. Little (Chair)

Also present Cllr. J. Mounsey (Allerdale Borough Council), Cllr. A. Bowness (Cumbria County Council)

Two members of the public for part of the meeting

**1860. Apologies**

None.

**1861. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 were accepted as a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

**1862. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. Richardson declared an interest in any matters relating to Torpenhow Village Hall.

**1863. Dispensation Requests**

The Clerk had not received any requests for dispensation to speak and/or vote on any matter where a member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.

**1864. Public Voice Slot**

Caroline Turner from Blennerhasset was in attendance and put forward a suggestion that the parish council consider planting a conifer tree to replace the smaller silver birch on the village green at Blennerhasset which would act as the village Christmas tree. Members agreed to consider the request.

Peter Turner from Blennerhasset was in attendance for item 6 on the agenda. Members were provided with an update on the flood grant and the proposed fencing works at the playing field.

**1865. Playing Field at Blennerhasset**

**(a) Fencing at the Playing Field**

The works at the playing field will probably commence in the spring once the worst of the winter weather is over. Whether to insert a floodgate to relieve the pressure on the fence and help alleviate the issues should the field flood in the future is being considered. Mr. Turner was reminded that the monitoring form for the grant would need to be completed by the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 or an extension of time would have to be requested from Cumbria Community Foundation. Mr. Turner was requested to keep the Parish Council informed of the start date of the work. Cllr. Powley asked Mr. Turner if the playing field would be reinstated once the work had been completed. Mr. Turner confirmed this would be done.

**(b) Letter from Allhallows Parish Council**

A letter had been received from Allhallows Parish Council regarding the registration of the playing field at Blennerhasset. The letter reminded members that as the field was purchased with donations from the residents of both Blennerhasset and Baggrow that if the parish council register the title it should be registered in trust for the residents of both villages. A discussion ensued around whether the field could be registered in the name of the two parish councils for the benefit of the inhabitants of Blennerhasset and Baggrow. The following actions were agreed:

- (i) the clerk contact Allhallows Parish Council to arrange a meeting with them to discuss the legal title to the land and
- (ii) once the legal title is resolved that a public meeting be held to discuss the management of the playing field.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Turner for attending the meeting.

#### **1866. Reports from Outside Bodies**

- (a) Allerdale Borough Council - Cllr. J. Mounsey reported that that the Borough Council's Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation will be considered at the Council meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January. Once approved the document will be released for public consultation.
- (b) Cumbria County Council - Cllr. Bowness reported on the County Council's Budget Consultation for 2017/18 and the underspend in the transport budget. Cllr Bowness also reported on the changes at County Highways following the retirement of David Harrison and Tim Shield.
- (c) Police Community Support Officer – PCSO P. Crome had confirmed that the reports supplied in future will no longer provide a summary of all crimes and anti-social incidents. Instead a link will be provided to the crime mapper website. This had been reiterated in an email from Inspector Smillie. The Clerk reported that no crimes were evident on the crime mapper website for the parish.

Item 12 was moved up the agenda

#### **1867. Highways Maintenance**

- (a) Recent roadworks at Torpenhow

The standard of work of the recent roadworks on the Torpenhow to Bothel road was discussed. The issues had been reported to County Highways and some attempts had been made to remedy the problems. Cllr. Bowness confirmed that he had reported the parish council's concerns to Highways and will report back once a response is received.

- (b) Flooding on the roads in the parish

Members discussed the recent flooding on the roads in the parish. There are certain areas in the parish that regularly flood due to the gullies not being in the correct position and the drainage not being capable of taking the water. It was noted that the gully wagon had been in the village recently but had not emptied all the gullies. Cllr Raine enquired whether Cumbria County Council has any funding available to address flooding issues on the roads. Cllr Bowness advised that grant money is available but is for flood damage repairs. Cllr Bowness agreed to raise the issues of flooding on the roads in Torpenhow at a meeting with County Highways next week. Cllrs Raine and Richardson agreed to re-forward the photographs of the recent flooding to Cllr Bowness. Cllr Bowness was requested to keep the parish council informed of any progress.

- (c) Maintenance of Cross Lane, Torpenhow – Cllr Raine reported that Cross Lane is deteriorating and no maintenance is currently being carried out on this road. A discussion followed around whether this road had been declassified.

Other matters reported:

Members enquired when the works on the Whitrigg road will be undertaken.

A report of fly tipping near High Road Blennerhasset had been reported to the Borough Council.

## **1868. Items in Action**

- (i) Village Signs Post Replacement. This matter had been deferred until March 2017
- (ii) Donation towards Christmas Tree/lights, Torpenhow. Due to unforeseen circumstances the Christmas tree in Torpenhow had not gone ahead. The agreed donation of £300 would be set aside until Christmas 2017.
- (iii) Layby adjacent Church, Torpenhow – Cllr. Powley reported that an estimate was still awaited from the contractor
- (iv) Leaking Map Boards – This matter had been deferred until March 2017
- (v) Flood Damage Grant – This matter was included on the agenda
- (vi) Playing Field - Registered ownership – This matter was included on the agenda
- (vii) Tree trimming – Cllr Powley reported that a report from the contractor is still awaited. It is likely that more work is required than first anticipated. The clerk was requested to check with the insurance company regarding the parish council's liability with regard to the trees on the village green
- (viii) Blennerhasset Village Hall – A response had been sent to solicitors and a reply was still awaited. The Clerk was requested to check on the progress with the solicitors. It was suggested that Allhallows Parish Council should be asked if they would like to be included on the registered title.
- (ix) Seat at West End, Torpenhow – Cllr Richardson reported that the replacement seat had been ordered and a delivery date was awaited.
- (x) Foothpath – Whitrigg – This matter was included as an agenda item.

## **1869. Project Groups**

### **Aspatria Rural Partnership**

The Chairman reported that the next meeting of the Partnership will be held on 12th January at Allhallows Centre. The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated.

## **1870. Finances**

- (a) The financial statement had been circulated with the agenda.

Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2016 £19,795.60

Receipts:

A-On Insurance - Refund of Premium £52.63

The cheque from the Milestone Society had been returned £60.00

- (b) Parish Council Cheque Signatories

The letter received from Cllr Richardson was discussed. It was proposed that an additional signatory be added to the mandate to resolve the issues raised in Cllr Richardson's letter. RESOLVED that Cllr Little be added to the mandate as an additional authorised signatory. The mandate was updated and signed for return to Nat West Bank.

- (c) The following payments were approved for payment:

Torpenhow Village Hall – Room Hire 2.11.16 and 9.11.16 £ 21.00

CALC – Chairman's Course £ 35.00

Clerk's account Quarter 3 – 14.9.16 – 31.12.16 £377.18

HMRC – PAYE Quarter 3 £ 94.20

Clerk's expenses Quarter 3 14.9.2016 – 31.12.16 £145.49

Donation granted to Great North Air Ambulance Service £500.00

## **1871. Planning**

### i) Applications received:

Consultation on an application under Section 211 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to carry out works to trees in Blennerhasset Conservation Area

The Old Cobblers Shop, Blennerhasset

Permission to remove Fir Tree T1 – The tree is causing structural problems to the property  
No objections

2/2016/0745 – Land adjacent to Ellenside House, Blennerhasset

Erection of detached one and half storey dwelling with attached garage

No objections

### ii) Decisions: None

2/2007/1289 Proposed new dwelling – Land adjacent to High Mains, Torpenhow

Further to minute ref 1848 the Clerk had sought clarification on the grant of planning permission for the proposed new dwelling at High Mains, Torpenhow and reported that as the dwelling is not yet occupied there has been no breach of the planning conditions.

## **1872. Correspondence**

Correspondence received since the last meeting had been circulated to members:

Environment Agency – Baggrow and Blennerhasset Community Emergency Plan

National Grid – North West Connections Project – Summary Report

Cumbria in Bloom Annual Trustees Report 2016

ARP – Boundary Review Paper

CALC Circular November

ARP – Future of Aspatria Local Links and Library

CALC – Request for councillors to sign a letter about the Success Regime consultation

Police Report – November

CALC Agenda Allerdale District Three Tier Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> January 7.00pm Allerdale House

Allerdale Borough Council Budget Consultation 2017/18

Cumbria County Council Budget Consultation 2017/18

CALC Circular December/January

Cumbria County Council – Public Consultation Allerdale Libraries

Wigton Town Council – Wigton Hospital alternative option to the NHS Success Regime

CALC – Fibre Broadband in Cumbria

Outreach Cumbria – Elements Festival celebrating age and diversity

Allerdale Borough Council – Webpage for Councillors

## **1873. Grass Cutting Tender 2017/18**

Draft tender documents had been circulated with the agenda. Amendments were made to point 4 to state that the area of the river bank as defined in schedule 3 should be cut on three occasions during the year in June, August and October. It was agreed that the tender should cover two seasons from April 2017 to October 2018.

RESOLVED to include the advert inviting tenders for the cutting of Blennerhasset and Torpenhow Village Greens and Blennerhasset Playing Field for two seasons in the Cumberland News and Times and Star. As it was too late for the advert to be included in the Binsey Link it would be displayed on the parish notice boards.

**1874. Donation Request**

A request for financial assistance had been received from the Great North Air Ambulance Service. RESOLVED that £500.00 be granted.

**1875. Dog Fouling**

Cllr. Bowe reported that incidents of dog fouling on the Village Green in Blennerhasset are still occurring. It was suggested that the Borough Council be informed of the issues and that signs reminding people to clean up after their dogs be sited in the vicinity.

**1876. Blennerhasset and Baggrow Community Emergency Plan**

Correspondence received from the Environment Agency regarding the drawing up of a Community Emergency Plan had been circulated with the agenda. It was proposed and agreed that Allhallows Parish Council should be contacted to enquire if they have made any decisions whether or not to draw up a plan. The clerk was requested to enquire whether the report from the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> October is available.

**1877. Allerdale Borough Council's Budget Consultation**

The Borough Council's Budget Consultation for 2017/18 had been circulated with the agenda. Cumbria County Council's Budget Consultation had also been received and was considered at the same time.

Members were opposed to the 1.9% increase in the Council Tax to protect services such as street cleaning, bin collections, recycling services and grass cutting and felt that urban areas receive greater benefit from the services than smaller rural communities. The increase in fees and charges in line with inflation was supported.

In response to the County Councils Budget Consultation Members supported an increase in Council Tax of 1.99% and to the 2% increase in Council Tax to support Adult Social Care.

**1878. Footpath at Whitrigg**

Cllr Raine requested that an update be provided regarding the footpath at Whitrigg. The Clerk agreed to contact the Rights of Way Officer at Cumbria County Council for a progress report.

**1879. Parish Council Vacancies**

Four vacancies still exist on the Parish Council. RESOLVED that the vacancies be advertised in the Binsey Link.

**1880. Agenda items for the Next Meeting**

Blennerhasset and Torpenhow Village Greens

**1881. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in Torpenhow Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm

Signed.....  
Chairman

Date.....