

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in Torpenhow Village Hall on Wednesday 13th
September, 2017 at 7.30 pm**

Present: Cllrs. J. Bowe, A. Little (Chair), W. Powley, A. Raine and R. Richardson

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

1963 Apologies for absence

PCSO M. Jones.

1964 Minutes 19th July 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th July, 2017 were accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chairman subject to an amendment to minute reference 1945 to read "The Parish Council expressed their concern that they had not been consulted on the proposals, it was suggested that the Clerk write to Cumbria County Council asking for copies of the design proposals".

1965 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

1966 Dispensation Requests

None received.

1967 Public Voice Slot

Cllr. Richardson reported that a letter had been received requesting the parish council to consider making a contribution towards a Christmas tree and lights for Torpenhow. The request had been supported last year but due to unforeseen circumstances had not gone ahead. The letter included a quotation for lights at a cost of £75.00. Members agreed to support the request and grant a donation to cover the cost of lights and a tree up to the value of £300.

1968 Reports from Outside Bodies

- (a) Allerdale Borough Council – Cllr. Mounsey reported that she had contacted the Borough Council and requested that they provide some additional no dog fouling signs be sited at the playing field at Blennerhasset. The street scene officer had been requested to visit the area more frequently. Cllr Mounsey also reported that the full Council meeting of the Borough Council will be held next Wednesday 20th September.
- (b) Cumbria County Council - Cllr. Bowness reported that the replacement of the posts for the village signs is ongoing and that Cumbria County Council has recently made some improvements to the Highways Information Management System.
- (c) Police Community Support Officer – Apologies had been received from PCSO Megan Jones. The Clerk reported that two crimes were shown on the crime mapper website at High Road, Blennerhasset.

1969 Project Groups

Aspatria Rural Partnership

The Chairman provided an update following the meeting of the Partnership last week. The Police Crime Commissioner attended the meeting together with Inspector Rachel Gale who has recently taken over at Cockermouth, from where the Aspatria Rural Police Team is managed. The main concerns raised are that not enough information is being relayed to parish councils. Inspector Gale is keen to try to address these issues. Regarding the crime mapper website this is operated by a third party nationally and no local police force has the ability to make any adaptations.

1970 Parish Council Insurance/Risk Management

The clerk reported that the renewal documentation had been received from Aon Insurance at a renewal premium of £666.78. An alternative quotation had been requested from Aon at £560.58. Zurich Insurance had quoted a premium of £341.75 to insure the usual risks of public liability, employers liability, fidelity guarantee and the parish council's assets for all risks. RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Zurich Insurance at an annual premium of £341.75.

Risks Management - Members agreed to inspect the parish council's assets prior to renewal of the insurance policy to establish that all are in good order with inspections being carried out on a regular basis. The clerk was requested to circulate the parish council asset register.

It was noted that the lock on the notice board at Torpenhow is not fastening securely. A discussion took place around the age of the notice boards and whether they should be replaced. Cllr Powley agreed to obtain a quotation for new notice boards to be considered at the next meeting.

1971 Finances

- (a) The financial statement at 31st August had been circulated with the agenda.

Balance at 31st August 2017 £16,901.63

- (b) Business Bank Account

The mandate had been completed and returned to the Cumberland Building Society. The three authorised signatories reported that they had been into the Cumberland Building Society to provide proof of identification. Once notification is received from CBS that the account has been opened arrangements will be made to transfer the account from Nat West.

- (c) Conclusion of Audit

The Clerk reported that the external auditors had now completed the audit for year ending 31 March 2017. There were no matters arising from the audit. The auditors' comments were noted and the annual return approved. The annual return and notice of conclusion of audit will now be published on the parish notice boards and on the website.

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

Milestone Society - Restoration of milestone	£ 60.00
BDO LLP – External Auditors	£120.00
Clerk's account Quarter 2	£326.46
HMRC - PAYE Quarter 2	£ 81.60
Clerk's expenses Quarter 2	£122.18
Blennerhasset & Baggrow Social Centre – Room Hire 19 July 17	£ 16.00
Zurich Insurance – Parish Council Insurance	£341.75

1972 Planning

- (a) Applications received:

Consultation on works to Tree Preservation Order trees – TPO/1/1994
Location Beechfield, Torpenhow

2/2017/0451 – Ellenside Garage, Blennerhasset
Demolition of former garage and erection of 3no dwellings

The application was circulated at the meeting. Concern was raised that the access to the properties was shown as public highway when in fact there is no public access to the proposed development, the only access being part of the village green.

Cllr Mounsey agreed to raise this with the Planning Officer at the Borough Council.

It was agreed: 1) to write to the Borough Council objecting to the access to the proposed development stating there is no public access to the properties, and 2) write to the developer advising that the village green is owned by the parish council.

- (b) Decisions:

HOU/2017/0101 Winder House Blennerhasset

Alterations to dwelling including replacement garage roof

FULL PLANS APPROVED

1973 Highways Maintenance

In the absence of a response to the letter sent to the Leader of Cumbria County Council which expressed concern that the parish council had not been consulted on the proposals reported in the press to upgrade the A595 at Bothel, it was agreed that the parish council's concerns should be escalated to the MP for the area.

1974 Correspondence

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

Baggrow and Blennerhasset Cricket Club – Update
Terry Moore - Milestone Restoration Complete
ARP – Updates
ARP – Minutes Meeting 6 July 2017
Cumbria CC – Cumbria Mineral and Waste Local Plan – Inspectors Report
Civic Voice – Invitation to Carlisle War Memorial Workshop – 4 October
CALC – Developing Your Skills Programme
CALC – Allerdale 3 Tier Meeting – 19 September
CALC – Cumbria Constabulary Public Consultation Survey
Northern Gas Networks – Availability of Gas Mains in Torpenhow
United Utilities – Update on the West Cumbria Water Supply Project
CALC – Data Protection Legislation
ARP – Prior Notice – General Meeting with PCC
Torpenhow Village Hall – High Speed Broadband and WiFi available
United Utilities Update on West Cumbria Supplies Project August 2017
ARP – Briefing Note regarding the Constitution for discussion at the AGM
A-on – Information re Insurance Policy

Additional correspondence received:

Clerks and Councils Direct
CALC Circular September 2017
Agenda – Three Tier meeting – September 19th Cockermouth Town Hall

It was suggested that United Utilities be invited to attend the Parish Council meeting in January to provide an up-date on the next phase of the West Cumbria Water Supply project.

1975 Blennerhasset Playing Field

(a) Registration of the Legal Title

The transfer document for the strip of land at Blennerhasset had been received from Beaty & Co. Solicitors. It was noted that that Transferee was stated as Blennerhasset and Torpenhow Parish Council. It was agreed that this should be returned to the solicitors for amendment to read Blennerhasset and Torpenhow Parish Council as Trustees on behalf of the parishioners/inhabitants of Blennerhasset and Baggrow. It was agreed to instruct the solicitors to proceed to prepare the documentation for registration of the playing field.

(b) Management of the Field

Following the meeting held on the 6th September a Committee to manage the playing field had now been formed. Written confirmation had been received that the Playing Field Committee is taking over the responsibilities relating to the playing field of Baggrow and Blennerhasset. It was suggested that a copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 6th September and all future meetings of the Committee be requested.

A request for a grant towards the grass cutting of the playing field had been received from the Playing Field Committee. The request for £600 for this year and £600 for next year will be included on the agenda for consideration at the next parish council meeting.

1976 Layby at Kirkland

Three landowners in the vicinity of the layby had been contacted to enquire about ownership of this area. The landowners had been advised that Cumbria County Council Highways Department are not responsible for maintenance of the layby as it is a private road. One landowner had confirmed that part of the land is within their ownership.

1977 Blennerhasset and Torpenhow Village Greens

(a) Erosion of Blennerhasset Village Green

Members discussed finding a solution to prevent the erosion of the Village Green in Blennerhasset. Due to the location of the gas pipe along the edge of the green the installation of posts may not be feasible. It was suggested that if the pot holes are repaired it may prevent car owners from encroaching onto the Green. Cllr Powley agreed to speak to parishioners in the immediate vicinity of the Green to enquire if they would be willing to contribute towards any repairs/resurfacing.

(b) Village Green – West End Torpenhow.

A site visit had taken place prior to the meeting. Proposals on how to improve the village green had been discussed. It was suggested that if a hard area for parishioners to park vehicles was established, combined with the use of a plastic mesh system that allows the grass to grow through, might resolve the issues. Cllr Raine agreed to obtain prices. It was proposed this solution might also be suitable for the edge of the Green at Blennerhasset.

1978 Layby adjacent to Church, Torpenhow

The estimate from Tolsons had been received. Tolsons had agreed to an inspection of the excavations being undertaken prior to the area being tarmaced.

1979 Map Boards

Cllr Richardson reported that he had contacted Alan Norman regarding retrieval of the map boards. The boards had still not been returned. Cllr Richardson also reported on a possible supplier to produce replacement maps.

1980 Tree Trimming

Cllr. Powley reported that he was still awaiting an alternative quotation for the work.

1981 Blennerhasset Village Hall

The Clerk had contacted the solicitors for an up-date. A response had not been received.

1982 Street Light at Blennerhasset

Cllr Bowe reported that she had attended a site meeting with a representative from the Borough Council together with the residents at Blennerhasset who had raised concerns regarding the street light. As the Borough Council had advised that if the street light is removed it will not be replaced in the future alternative suggestions had been considered to alleviate the issues of the light shining through the resident's window.

1983 Funding for Defibrillators

Notices had been displayed on the parish notice boards and an article included in Binsey Link asking for suggestions for fund raising ideas to purchase two defibrillators. A parishioner from Torpenhow had suggested that the parish council fund the purchase of the defibrillators and that the village hall committee should also be requested to make a contribution. The parishioner also put forward ideas for fund raising which included information evenings, defibrillator training and/or basic first aid. Members discussed the likely costs involved in providing and installing defibrillators for the two villages. Cllr Mounsey suggested that the Parish Council should enquire whether Cumbria Community Foundation have funding available for this type of project. An acknowledgement advising that the parish council are exploring sources of funding and asking for any further ideas for fundraising would be sent to the parishioner.

1984 Community Emergency Plans

ACTion with Communities in Cumbria had provided leaflets containing advice on Emergency Planning for distribution in the Parish. It was suggested that before an emergency plan is drawn up the Village Hall Committee need to confirm that they have procedures in place in the event of an emergency. The Clerk was requested to contact the Village Hall Committee to enquire if they have any such arrangements.

1985 Speed Monitoring Device – Torpenhow

A response had been received from Cumbria County Council advising that this had not yet taken place but was in the pipeline. Members requested that the County Council be contacted to request that the Parish Council has some input as to where the devices will be located.

1986 Agenda items for the Next Meeting

Annual Budget/Setting the Precept
Replacement of Notice Boards
Grant request – Playing Field Committee

1987 Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th November, 2017 – 7.00 pm – Blennerhasset and Baggrow Social Centre

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed.....
Chairman

Date.....