

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Torpenhow Village Hall on Wednesday 8th
March, 2017 at 7.30pm**

1882. Present

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

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

1883. Apologies

PCSO P. Crome.

1884. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th January, 2017 were accepted as a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

1885. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Richardson declared an interest in any matters relating to Torpenhow Village Hall and Highway issues at Torpenhow.

1886. Dispensation Requests

A request for dispensation had been received from Cllr Richardson in relation to item 9(b) on the agenda Financial Matters, accounts to paid, due to being a director of Bobol Limited. RESOLVED that the dispensation be granted.

1887. Public Voice Slot

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

Cllr Bowe presented a letter from Baggrow and Blennerhasset Cricket Club. The letter was read out at the meeting. The letter advised that at a special meeting held on 7th March 2017 a decision had been taken by the Cricket Club members present to dissolve the Baggrow and Blennerhasset Cricket Club with effect from 22nd April 2017. The date coincides with the date the pavilion and grass cutting insurance expires. The letter put forward three alternatives for the future of the pavilion. The Cricket Club require written representations in respect of the three options by no later than 15th April, 2017. This was discussed later in the meeting.

1888. Reports from Outside Bodies

- (a) Allerdale Borough Council - Cllr. J. Mounsey reported on the Borough Council's current Public Consultations. The Electoral Review of Allerdale draft recommendations are that the parish will fall within the Boltons Ward. The Allerdale Local Plan Site Allocations does not have any real impact on the parish.
- (b) Cumbria County Council - Cllr. Bowness reported that Cumbria County Council are to implement a new system for reporting defects on the highway. The system (HIMS) will be a much improved way to report defects as these can be pinpointed on a map and photographs can also be added. The progress of the fault reported can be tracked on the new system which is expected to be operational by the end of March.
- (c) Police Community Support Officer – PCSO P. Crome had provided a report containing crime prevention advice. The Clerk reported that one crime had been reported on the police crime mapper website relating to an assault in Blennerhasset in December 2016.

1889. Items in Action

- (i) Village Signs Post Replacement. This matter was deferred until May 2017.
- (ii) Layby adjacent Church, Torpenhow – Estimate was still awaited from the contractor. It was agreed to allocate £500 towards the project.
- (iii) Leaking Map Boards – This matter was deferred until May 2017. The Boards would need to be retrieved from AKN Developments.
- (iv) Flood Damage Grant – A reminder had been received from Cumbria Community Foundation that the monitoring form is due to be returned by 1st April. As the work at the playing field had not yet started the Clerk was requested to ask for an extension to the due date.
- (v) Playing Field - Registered ownership – This matter was included on the agenda
- (vi) Tree trimming – The report from the contractor is still awaited. The council's insurers had confirmed that if the trees are the responsibility of the parish council they will be covered under the public liability insurance.
- (vii) Blennerhasset Village Hall – Allhallows Parish Council had confirmed they do not wish to be included as a trustee of the Blennerhasset Village Hall Committee. The solicitors had confirmed they are awaiting approval from the Charity Commission to the appointment of the Parish Council as corporate/custodian trustee.
- (viii) Seat at West End, Torpenhow – Cllr Richardson reported that the replacement seat had been installed on 20th February.
- (ix) Cheque Signatories – Nat West Bank had updated their records regarding the change of Clerk. The Chairman had provided proof of id to the bank. Members discussed the closure of branches of Nat West and suggested that enquiries be made to transfer the account to the Cumberland Building Society. The Clerk agreed to make initial enquiries.
- (x) Grass Cutting Tenders – This item was included as an agenda item
- (xi) Dog Fouling – The Street Scene Officer at the Borough Council had been requested to site notices in the vicinity of the village green at Blennerhasset. It was suggested that the Dog Exclusion Order for the playing field should be displayed on the parish notice board at Blennerhasset.
- (xii) Blennerhasset and Baggrow Community Emergency Plan – Members considered whether an Emergency Plan should be drawn up for the Parish. Cllr Bowe reported that residents in Blennerhasset already have an informal procedure in place to alert residents of potential flooding. It was suggested that the Village Hall Committees be contacted to enquire if the village halls could be used as control centres in the case of an emergency. An article would also be included in Binsey Link seeking a volunteer co-ordinator for each village.
- (xiii) Foothpath – Whitrigg – This matter was included as an agenda item.
- (xiv) Councillor Vacancies – No expressions of interest had been received at the date of the meeting. It was suggested that a notice should also be displayed on the parish notice boards.
- (xv) Village Greens – Mole Infestation. Cllr. Powley reported that traps had been set and the problem appears to have been alleviated.

1890. Project Groups

Aspatria Rural Partnership

The Chairman reported she had attended the last meeting of the Partnership on 2nd March. Items on the agenda included the Local Plan, Boundary Commission and Police attendance at Parish Council meetings. The Partnership is still looking to recruit a Co-ordinator.

1891. Finances

- (a) The financial statement had been circulated with the agenda.
- (b) The following payments were approved for payment:

Blennerhasset & Baggrow Social Centre – Room Hire – 11.1.2017	£ 18.00
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Rocket Sites – Website Hosting Fee	£ 18.00
Cumbrian Newspapers – Grass cutting advertisement	£190.27
CALC – Good Councillor Course	£ 35.00
BoBol Ltd. – Bench – West End, Torpenhow	£376.62
Clerk’s account Quarter 4 – 1 January – 31 March 2017	£323.24
HMRC – PAYE Quarter 4 – 1 January – 31 March 2017	£ 80.80
Clerk’s expenses Quarter 4	£125.04

Donations granted to:

Torpenhow Village Hall Committee	£200.00
Blennerhasset & Baggrow Social Centre	£200.00

(c) Appointment of Internal Auditor

RESOLVED that Mrs E. Tiffin be appointed to undertake the internal audit of the parish council’s accounts for financial year 2016/17.

1892. Planning

(a) Applications received:

2/2017/0064 – Sites off A595/School Lane Bothel between Williamsgate, Bridekirk and Mealsgate.

6 proposed temporary construction accesses at various locations

2/2017/0065 – Proposed Pipeline United Utilities Bridekirk

New temporary access and minor realignment of pipeline at Quarry Hill WTW, revised construction technique at river crossing near Low Mill and widening of working areas near Bridekirk on A595

(b) Decisions: None

1893. Highways Maintenance

Notification had been received on 6th March of a temporary road closure of the U2106 Whitrigg to Torpenhow Road. Works are scheduled to commence from 13th March and are expect to last two weeks. Cllr Raine reported that he had contacted the residents affected who had confirmed they had not received notification of the road closure. Members felt that one weeks notice of planned works was unreasonable.

The flooding issues on the Torpenhow road and standing water on the Whitrigg road were discussed. Cllr Richardson had received an email from County Highways regarding the issues at Low Croft to the effect that the problems arise because of the height of the ramp in front of the farm access at the side of the house. County Highways suggested this should be lowered so the water can freely enter the field. Cllr Bowness agreed to arrange a site meeting with the Highways Area Steward to discuss this and other highway issues in Torpenhow.

1894. Correspondence

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

Aspatria Rural Partnership – Minutes – Meeting 12th January 2017

Aspatria Rural Partnership – Dog Control Orders

Allerdale Borough Council – Public Consultation Allerdale Local Plan (Part 2): Site Allocations - Preferred Options Consultation

Cumbria County Council – Blennerhasset and Baggrow Flood Forum Meeting 9th February

Allhallows Parish Council – Blennerhasset Playing Field

Cumbria County Council - Torpenhow 30mph Request

Wigton Baths Trust – Newsletter

Request for Funding – Cumbria Dyslexia Project – Item to be included on the agenda for the next meeting following receipt of further information.

United Utilities West Cumbria Water Supply Project – An exhibition will be held in Bothel Village Hall on Wednesday 15th March between 1.00pm – 7.00pm

CALC – Circular February 2017

CALC – Parish Locality Meetings – Allerdale Local Plan (Part 2) and Locality Area Profiles

Local Government Boundary Commission – Review of Allerdale – Draft Recommendations

Aspatria Rural Partnership – Agenda 2 March 2017

Additional correspondence received:

Letter of thanks from the Great North Air Ambulance Service for the Parish Council's donation of £500.

Cumbria County Council – Temporary Road Closure U2106 Whitrigg to Torpenhow

Wigton Town Council – Notification that a meeting will be held at The Oval Centre Workington on 8th March to discuss the Healthcare for the Future public consultation. It was noted that the maternity services at West Cumberland Hospital will be retained for a 12 month trial period but the community beds will go at Alston, Wigton and Maryport hospitals.

Blennerhasset Pools Allotments – The Clerk reported that a default notice had been received from the Charity Commission stating that the charity information report had not been filed for financial year ending 31.3.2016. The clerk reported that this had now been completed. It was suggested that as no members of the parish council are trustees of the Pools Allotments enquiries be made at the Charity Commission whether or not the charity could be wound up.

The Chairman reported that she had received a letter from the previous Clerk regarding the removal of the filing cabinet from his premises. The Chairman confirmed that following consultation with the current Clerk the filing cabinet had been removed to the Chairman's address.

1895. Grass Cutting Tender 2017/18

Tenders had been received from Southend Garden Services, Wigton Town Council and Strawberry Cottage Landscapes.

The tender submitted from Baggrow and Blennerhasset Cricket Club was withdrawn following the dissolution of the Club.

RESOLVED that the contract for Blennerhasset and Torpenhow Village Greens for two seasons (2017-18) be awarded to Strawberry Cottage Landscapes subject to the terms specified in the tender documentation. The contractor would be notified and requested to provide confirmation of insurance and a risk assessment.

The contract for the Playing Field will be considered further once a decision on the future of the field had been reached.

1896. Blennerhasset Playing Field – Registered Ownership

The Chairman and two members had attended a meeting with Allhallows Parish Council on 1st February to discuss the registration of the Playing Field. Following the meeting Allhallows PC had confirmed that as the field is owned by Blennerhasset and Torpenhow Parish Council and lies outside of their parish boundary there are no reasons for Allhallows PC to be included in the registration process subject to the rights being maintained for the residents of Baggrow.

It was agreed that following receipt of the letter from the Blennerhasset and Baggrow Cricket Club advising of the dissolution of the Club that advice from a solicitor be sought as to the parish council's liability and to also seek advice on the options put forward in the letter for the future of the pavilion. The Chairman agreed to arrange a suitable appointment at Beaty & Co. in Wigton that all members could attend.

1897. Village Greens

Measures to be taken to prevent further damage being caused by vehicles to the village greens in Blennerhasset and West End Torpenhow were discussed. The possibility of installing posts along the edge of the green at Blennerhasset was considered. It was noted that pipes belonging to the Gas Board run along the edge of the green. The Clerk was requested to arrange for the Gas Board to visit the site. Cllr Powley agreed to be the point of contact.

Options for the green at West End, Torpenhow were discussed. It was suggested that Cumbria County Council Highways Department should be consulted on this when they attend the site visit in Torpenhow to discuss the other highway issues.

1898. Footpath at Whitrigg

The Clerk had requested an up-date from the Rights of Way Officer at Cumbria County Council who had re-forwarded an email sent to the previous clerk dated February 2013 attaching an application form to be completed for a modification order. Cllr Raine reported that a form had been completed in 2013 and sent to the County Council. The Clerk agreed to make further enquiries.

1899. Public Consultations

The Borough Council's Public Consultations had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

(a) Electoral Review of Allerdale: Draft Recommendations

The draft recommendations are that the parish will fall in the Boltons Ward. The changes if agreed will take effect from elections in 2019.

(b) Allerdale Local Plan (Part 2): Site Allocations - Preferred Option Consultation

The options do not have any significant impact on the parish.

1900. Agenda items for the Next Meeting

Blennerhasset and Torpenhow Village Greens
Donation Request Cumbria Dyslexia Project
Funding/Grants available for Defibrillators

1901. Meeting Dates for Council Year 2017/18

The meeting dates for council year 2017-18 were agreed.

Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th May 2017 at 7.00 p.m. in Torpenhow Village Hall.

12th July, 2017 – 7.30 pm - Blennerhasset and Baggrow Social Centre

13th September, 2017 – 7.30 pm - Torpenhow Village Hall

8th November 2017 – 7.30 pm - Blennerhasset and Baggrow Social Centre

10th January, 2018 – 7.30 pm - Torpenhow Village Hall

14th March, 2018 – 7.30 pm - Blennerhasset and Baggrow Social Centre

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm

Signed.....
Chairman

Date.....