

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in Blennerhasset & Baggrow Social Centre on  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 at 7.00 pm**

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

Also present: Cllr. J. Mounsey, Allerdale Borough Council, Cllr. A. Bowness, Cumbria County Council (joined the meeting at 8.10 pm)

**1988 Apologies for absence**

Cllr. J. Bowe and PCSO M. Jones.

**1989 Minutes 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 were accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

**1990 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

**1991 Dispensation Requests**

None received.

**1992 Public Voice Slot**

Further to min ref. 1967 Cllr. Richardson reported that a firm price had now been received for the Christmas tree and lights for Torpenhow at a cost of £84.44 for lights and £70.00 for the tree. It was agreed that cheques should be issued for these amounts.

The planting of a permanent Christmas tree on the Village Green at Blennerhasset was discussed. It was suggested that Cllrs Bowe and Powley would meet at the Village Green with a representative of the Village Hall Management Committee to agree an appropriate location for the tree. Cllr Powley agreed to look for a suitable tree up to a maximum cost of £500.

**1993 Reports from Outside Bodies**

- (a) Allerdale Borough Council – Cllr. Mounsey reported that the Customer Services/Reception area at Allerdale House was being refurbished. Members asked Cllr Mounsey if she could arrange for the road sweeper to visit the Parish.
- (b) Cumbria County Council - Cllr. Bowness was not present for this part of the meeting
- (c) Police Community Support Officer – The letter received from Inspector Rachel Gale regarding the new procedures for police engagement with Parish Councils was discussed. The letter stated that it was not feasible for an officer to attend each individual parish council meeting. For a trial period regular meetings will be held every 10 weeks to which all parish councils within the officer's area of responsibility would be invited. This was noted by Members.

**1994 Project Groups**

Aspatria Rural Partnership

The Chairman provided a summary of the meeting of the Partnership held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. A Police Community Support Officer had been in attendance and provided information on the Police Community Messaging Scheme. Other items discussed included the FairShare Community Food Project, the availability of Grants from Allerdale Borough Council through the Warm Homes Project and a vacancy still exists for a facilitator for the Partnership.

**1995 Finances**

- (a) The financial statement at 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2017 had been circulated with the agenda.

Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> October

Nat West	£20,658.63
Cumberland Building Society	£ 1.00

Income Received:

Allerdale Borough Council – Half Yearly Precept	£4,749.99
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(b) COIF Charity

The Clerk reported that before the account with Nat West Bank could be closed the mandate for the COIF Charity Blennerhasset Poors Allotment would need to be completed in order that any future transactions would be paid into the Cumberland Building Society. RESOLVED that Cllrs Powley and Richardson as authorised signatories should sign the mandate.

(c) The following payments were approved for payment:

Torpenhow Village Hall Committee – Room Hire 13.9.17	£ 15.00
Strawberry Cottage Landscapes – Grass Cutting	£2710.00
Lights 4 Fun – Christmas Lights for Torpenhow	£ 84.44
Moota Garden Centre – Christmas Tree for Torpenhow	£ 70.00

Donations granted to:

Blennerhasset & Baggrow Playing Field Committee	£ 600.00
Great North Air Ambulance Service	£ 500.00

**1996 Budget/Setting the Precept Demand for 2018/19**

The draft budget for 2018-19 had been circulated with the agenda. The usual income and expenditure items together with projects for the forthcoming year were discussed. RESOLVED that the precept demand be increased by 10% to £10,450 to cover the projected spending on improvements and maintenance of the Parish.

**1997 Planning**

(a) Applications received:

- 2/2017/0506 – Whitehead Brow, Mealsgate  
Erection of cattle shed
- 2/2017/2065 – Stanger Hill, Torpenhow  
Proposal to erect a muck midden cover
- 2/2017/0466 – Stanger Hill, Torpenhow  
Proposal to roof over existing cattle feeding area
- HOU/2017/0223 – Barn End, Torpenhow  
Porch and alterations to property

(b) Decisions:

- 2/2017/0465 – Stanger Hill, Torpenhow  
Proposal to erect a muck midden cover
- FULL PLANS APPROVED

**1998 Highways**

(a) Maintenance

It was reported that following the recent repairs to the roads in the Torpenhow and Whitrigg areas flooding was still occurring in parts and there was now standing water in places not evident prior to the work being carried out. It was agreed that letter should be sent to Highways setting out these concerns. Cllr Mounsey also agreed to report these matters to Highways.

It was reported that the gullies in the Parish had not been cleaned out.

(b) A595 Upgrade – West of the M6 Strategic Connectivity Study

Further to minute reference 1973 an acknowledgement had been received from the MP's office requesting further information. Cumbria LEP had confirmed that key stakeholders had been consulted but parish councils had not been involved in the Workshop Study as it had been a high level technical event and did not consider specific projects. Correspondence had also been received from the Leader of Cumbria County Council which stated that the Consultants who prepared the Study had claimed to have consulted all affected Parish Councils. Members noted that the bid for funding had been turned down therefore the scheme will not be proceeding at the present time.

(c) Speed Monitoring Device

The results of the traffic surveys carried out in Torpenhow had not been received for the meeting.

(d) Highways dispute with former contractor

Reports in the media regarding the legal battle between Cumbria County Council and its former highways contractor resulting in the County Council facing a £21m bill was discussed. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Cumbria County Council expressing the parish council's concern about the lack of oversight which allowed this to happen and enquiring what measures are now in place to prevent this happening in the future.

## **1999 Correspondence**

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

United Utilities – Update on the West Cumbria Water Supply Project  
Cumbria Police – Police engagement  
CALC Circular – October 2017  
Playing Field Committee – Funding for Blennerhasset & Baggrow Playing Field  
Playing Field Committee – Minutes from meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017  
Brockbanks, Solicitors – Blennerhasset Social & Educational Centre  
St. Michael's and All Angels Church, Torpenhow – Donation Request  
Great North Air Ambulance Service – Donation Request  
Cumbria Community Foundation – Grant funding for defibrillators  
Cumbria LEP – A595 Upgrade  
Cumbria County Council – A595 Upgrade  
Blennerhasset & Baggrow Flood Action Group – Notes of Meeting 21 September  
Allerdale BC – Community Led Housing Event  
CALC – Minutes of a General Meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> September  
Allerdale Borough Council Planning Policy Consultation – Brownfield Register Part 1  
CALC – Cumbria LEP – News Update Autumn 2017  
Cumbria County Council – Inclusive Mobility Budget  
Aspatia ARP – Agenda 2 November

Additional correspondence received:

Clerks/Councils Direct  
CALC Agenda AGM 18<sup>th</sup> November 2017  
Police Crime Commissioner – Council Tax Precept Survey

## **2000 Blennerhasset Playing Field**

(a) Registration of the Legal Title

The amended transfer document for the strip of land at Blennerhasset had been received from the solicitors. (min ref. 1975(a)). The transfer document had been forwarded for signature to the existing trustee who had confirmed that they were unwilling to sign the document without authorisation from the Cricket Club. Members agreed to seek further legal advice as to how to proceed. In relation to registering the playing field the solicitor had requested an approximate valuation for Land Registry purposes. It was agreed that £15,000 would be an appropriate valuation.

(b) Playing Field Committee - Grant Request

The request received prior to the last meeting from the Playing Field Committee for a grant of £600 towards the grass cutting of the playing field was considered. Members also considered the contents of the report received regarding the future maintenance and funding of the field. Following a discussion, it was RESOLVED that the grant request for £600 be supported. This represented fifty per cent of the cost involved in cutting the field.

## **2001 Blennerhasset and Torpenhow Village Greens**

RESOLVED that this item be deferred until the new year.

## **2002 Layby adjacent to Church, Torpenhow**

Cllr Powley reported that the contractor will be commencing work in the next few weeks.

## **2003 Map Boards**

Cllr Richardson reported that the map boards had still not been returned. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Mr. Norman to arrange for the return of the boards. Possible suppliers to produce replacement maps was also discussed. Cllr. Bowness agreed to pass on to the Clerk the contact details for Arlosh Graphics.

## **2004 Tree Trimming**

Cllr. Powley reported that an alternative quotation for the tree works at Blennerhasset Village Green had been received. RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Nomad Tree Services Ltd at a cost of £4,500.00 subject to clarification being received in writing as to the number of trees to be removed. The Clerk advised that as the trees are within a Conservation Area permission for the work to be carried out would need to be requested from the Planning Authority. The Clerk agreed to make enquiries at the Borough Council and Cllr Powley agreed to contact the contractor. It was also suggested that a notice be published on the notice board notifying parishioners in Blennerhasset that work will be carried out on the trees on the Village Green.

## **2005 Blennerhasset Village Hall**

The Deed of Appointment together with the transfer document transferring the legal ownership of the Village Hall to the Parish Council, as custodian trustees, had been received from the solicitors for signature by two members of the Parish Council. RESOLVED that Cllrs Bowe and Powley be authorised to sign the documents.

## **2006 Funding for Defibrillators**

Further to minute ref. 1983 Cumbria Community Foundation had confirmed that grant funding may be available from the Joyce Wilkinson Trust. RESOLVED to submit an application to the Joyce Wilkinson Trust for one defibrillator for Torpenhow as it had come to light that Blennerhasset had already applied for grant funding from a different source.

## **2007 Community Emergency Plans**

Further to minute ref. 1984 the Village Hall Management Committee had advised that no procedures are currently in place but the Committee would be willing to discuss with the Parish Council how the hall might be used in the event of an emergency. Members agreed that confirmation was only required that in the event of a community emergency the keyholders would be willing to open the hall for parishioners affected to use as a centre/meeting point. The Clerk was requested to put this request to the Village Hall Committee.

## **2008 Replacement of Notice Boards**

Cllr Powley reported that he had obtained a quotation for £800. A suggestion was put forward that the village maps could be incorporated into the new notice board. Cllr Powley agreed to obtain alternative quotations for the next meeting.

## **2009 Donation Requests**

Two requests for donations had been received and were considered at the meeting:

- (a) St Michael's Church, Torpenhow – RESOLVED to defer the request until the next meeting.
- (b) Great North Air Ambulance – RESOLVED that £500 should be granted.

## **2010 Agenda items for the Next Meeting**

Replacement of Notice Boards  
Donation request – St. Michael's Church, Torpenhow  
Village Greens  
United Utilities West Cumbria Water Supplies Project

## **2011 Date of the Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 – 7.30 pm – Torpenhow Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Signed.....  
Chairman  
Date.....