

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Torpenhow Village Hall on
Wednesday 9th November 2016 at 7.30pm**

1838. Present

Cllrs. Richardson, Raine, Powley, Mrs. J. Bowe, Ms. Little (Chair)
Also present Cllr. J. Mounsey (Allerdale Borough Council)
One member of the public for part of the meeting

1839. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Cllr. A. Bowness (Cumbria County Council)

1840. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th September, 2016 were accepted as a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

1841. Declarations of Interest

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

1842. 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.

1843. Public Voice Slot

Cllr. Bowe on behalf of a parishioner stated that it had been noted that the bus shelter in Blennerhasset had not been washed down prior to the re-painting work commencing.

Gillian Hinds was in attendance and addressed the meeting regarding the donation request of £300 to be used to purchase a Christmas tree and lights for Torpenhow. She advised that a quotation had been requested from Moota Garden Centre to supply the tree. Quotations had also been requested for the purchase of two sets of lights. Cllr. Powley agreed to oversee the installation of the tree. An event will be organised at the village hall when the light switch on will take place.

A report had been received of mole infestation on the village green at the top end of the village in Torpenhow. Cllr Powley agreed to contact a local mole catcher.

1844. Reports from Outside Bodies

(a) Allerdale Borough Council - Cllr. J. Mounsey reported that

- She had attended a presentation by National Grid on the proposed north west coast connection project to connect Moorside, the new nuclear power station into the electricity transmission system. The proposals will not have an impact on the parish.
- The public consultation for healthcare in North West and East Cumbria is still open. The proposals will affect the community hospitals in Wigton and Maryport and will also see a downgrading of services at West Cumberland Hospital. It was agreed that the parish council should submit a response to the consultation against the proposals.
- The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has commenced an electoral review of the Borough Council. The consultation is inviting proposals for a new pattern of electoral wards. The Commission is minded to recommend that 48 councillors should be elected to the Borough Council in future.

(b) Cumbria County Council - Cllr. Bowness was not present at the meeting.

- (c) Police Community Support Officer - A report from Cumbria Police had not been received. The Clerk reported that the way crime figures are provided in future will be changing. Crime figures and details of the incidents can now be found on the website <https://www.police.uk> and following the links - Find your Neighbourhood - Enter your location / postcode - Explore crime map - Click on area - Click on each incident for details. It was noted that the site is difficult to navigate and is out of date. It was therefore suggested that PCSO P. Crome be contacted to ask if the parish council could continue to receive a written report.

1845. Items in Action

- i) Village Sign Post Replacement – Cllr Powley reported that a quotation was still awaited from Paul Mitchell. It was suggested that this item be deferred until next year.
- ii) Donation towards Christmas tree and lights at Torpenhow – This was included as an agenda item.
- iii) Layby leading to Church at Torpenhow – This was included as an agenda item.
- iv) Leaking Map Boards – Cllr Richardson reported that he had contacted Alan Norman who had advised that the boards should have been better sealed before the map had been inserted and the map should have been laminated. It was agreed that this should be deferred until Spring 2017.
- v) Flood Damage Grant The Clerk had contacted Cumbria Community Foundation regarding the terms and conditions of the grant. CCF had requested a letter from the Chair before any information could be released. The Clerk agreed to contact CCF.
- vi) Playing Field, Registered Ownership – The Chairman reported that she had sought advice from Milburns Solicitors who had advised that the cost for dealing with a transfer of the registered land adjacent to the playing field would be £200 plus VAT plus Land Registry fees of approximately £20.00. The cost for the solicitors to deal with the registration of the playing fields would be £200 plus VAT and Land Registry fees of approximately £40.00. It was agreed that before this is pursued any further that the Charity Commission should be contacted to establish who the owners of the land are and what the parish council's responsibilities are if the land is registered in their name on behalf of the Blennerhasset and Torpenhow Parish.
- vii) Defibrillator at Torpenhow Village Hall – A response had not been received from the First Responders. The potential costs involved with the installation of a defibrillator was discussed. It was agreed to defer the item at the moment.
- viii) Tree Trimming – Cllr Powley reported that a price to trim back the tree at the riverside was still awaited. Cllr Bowe suggested that the trees on Blennerhasset Village Green should also be trimmed back. The Chairman advised that a tree clearing consent form had been received from ENW to trim and prune three trees in Torpenhow. ENW to be advised that the parish council had no objection to the work being undertaken.
- ix) Broadband – Connecting Cumbria had advised that the cabinet at Torpenhow was now live. Anyone interested in superfast broadband should contact their broadband provider.
- x) Blennerhasset Village Hall – A letter had been received from Brockbanks Solicitors regarding the proposed transfer of the Village Hall into the ownership of the Parish Council. The Clerk was requested to respond to the points raised in the Solicitors letter.
- xi) Bus Shelters – The bus shelters have been repainted and an invoice received for the work.
- xii) Seat at West End, Torpenhow – This item was included as an agenda item
- xiii) Blennerhasset Riverside – Strawberry Cottage Landscapes had attended to the strimming and submitted an invoice for the work.
- xiv) Clerk's Contract – This item was included as an agenda item

It was noted that the footpath at Whitrigg should also be included on the items in action list.

1846. Project Groups

Aspatria Rural Partnership

The Chairman reported that she had attended the last meeting of Aspatria Rural Partnership held on the 3rd November. Items on the agenda included a Review of the ARP Constitution, a report on Wigton Local Links and the way forward in Aspatria and a report on the first six months of Aspatria CAB.

1847. Finances

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

Balance at 31st October £23,040.40

Income Received:

Cumbria Community Foundation – Flood Grant £4,080.00

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

Blennerhasset & Baggrow Social Centre – Room Hire 11.5.16, 20.7.16 and 14.9.16	£ 38.00
CALC – Good Employer Guide	£ 2.50
G. Armer – Clerk’s expenses to 30.9.16	£ 178.13
B. Armstrong – Painting bus shelters	£ 600.00
Strawberry Cottage Landscapes – Grass Cutting	£2230.00
A-on Insurance – Increase in premium to include Property Damage	£ 249.14

- (c) RESOLVED that the amendments to the bank mandate regarding the change of clerk and correspondence address were approved and signed by the authorised signatories.

- (d) The draft budget for financial year 2017/18 had been circulated with the agenda. Projects for the forthcoming year were considered. It was agreed that approximately £1500 would be adequate for the projects discussed. RESOLVED that the precept remain unchanged at £9500.

1848. Planning

- i) Applications received: None

- ii) Decisions: None

It was noted that an invitation to speak at the Borough Council’s Development Panel meeting on 15th November 2016 had been received. This was in relation to application 2/2016/0045 - United Utilities PLC – Development of new water supply pipeline connection from Thirlmere to West Cumbria.

The Clerk was requested to make enquiries with the Planning Department regarding compliance with a condition that a pavement be constructed on the planning permission for a new dwelling on land adj to High Mains, Torpenhow.

1849. Highways Maintenance

Highway Maintenance – The Chairman together with Cllrs Raine and Richardson had met with two representatives from County Highways. The planned works in the parish had been discussed. As Paul Telford from CCC had not attended the site meeting it was agreed that a letter should be sent to him to establish whether any of the parish council’s comments had been accepted and to request confirmation of the work that is to be carried out.

Concern was raised around the parts of the road and the passing places where resurfacing work will not be carried out. It was suggested that road planings should be purchased and these should be put in where County Highways will be overlaying the road surface.

The speed of traffic travelling through the village of Torpenhow was discussed. It was agreed that this issue should be raised with County Highways with the request that they reconsider the parish council's request for a 30 mile per hour speed limit to be implemented or to suggest any alternative proposals to reduce the speed of traffic.

Damage to Infrastructure on Village Greens - Cllr. Raine reported that it had been noted that following a recent cut damage had been caused to the infrastructure on the village green. It was suggested that the contractor should be made aware of the location of any stop tap covers and hydrants to prevent future damage being caused.

1850. Correspondence

A file of correspondence received since the last meeting had been circulated to members.

1851. Restoration of Milestone

Correspondence had been received from Milestone Restoration Company thanking the parish council for their donation of £60.00 towards the restoration of the milestone at Overgates. The letter stated that restoration works had ceased for this year and the work would re-commence in Spring 2017. The letter asked whether the cheque for the donation should be banked or returned. RESOLVED that Milestone Restoration Company be requested to return the cheque and the parish council would issue a new cheque once work re-commences.

1852. Donation for Christmas Tree/Lights - Torpenhow

This item had been discussed under the Public Voice Slot. RESOLVED that the request be supported.

1853. Layby Torpenhow

The condition of the driveway to the Church in Torpenhow was discussed. It was suggested that the construction of the driveway was inadequate for the traffic using it. Cllr Powley agreed to ask Tolsons to look at the driveway to see what can be done and obtain a price for the works. It was still unclear as to whether County Highways would be prepared to adopt this layby.

1854. Insurance Quotation from A-on

A-on Insurance had been requested to provide a quotation to include property damage for the parish council's assets. The quotation provided resulted in an additional premium of £249.14. RESOLVED to accept the quotation and increase the cover provided on the current policy to include property damage.

1855. Seat at Torpenhow – Maintenance Arrangements

Cllr. Richardson reported that a price had been obtained to replace the seat. A discussion took place as to the type of seat to be ordered and whether plastic would be more practicable with regard to maintenance. It was agreed that the seat should be replaced like for like. Cllr Richardson agreed to make the necessary arrangements to order the seat.

1856. Agenda items for the Next Meeting

Grass Cutting Contract
Donation Request – Great North Air Ambulance
Footpath at Whitrigg (Cllr Raine)
Dog Fouling (Cllr Bowe)

1857. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 11th January 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in Bagrow and Blennerhasset Social Centre.

The Chairman moved that under Section 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the next item.

1858. Clerk's Contract

A model contract of employment had been circulated prior to the meeting on 2nd November. A draft contract had been prepared. The contract was agreed subject to an amendment that an allowance should be paid to cover working from home expenses, broadband and use of computer. The contract was agreed and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm

Signed.....
Chairman

Date.....