**Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Blennerhasset Village Hall on Wednesday 11 November 2015**

**1729. Present.**

Cllrs. Richardson, Powley, Clarkson, Raine, Ms. Little. Also present was Cllr. Mrs. Mounsey (A.B.C.).

**1730. Apologies.**

Cllrs. Mrs. Bowe and Cllr. Bowness (C.C.C.) had sent their apologies for absence.

**1731. Minutes.**

It was proposed that the minutes of 9 September 2015 be amended as follows:

1. Minute 1717 is replaced by, “An apology for absence had been received from Cllr. Mrs. Mounsey (A.B.C.)”,
2. To Minute 1725 should be added, “ aa) It was decided to continue with AON for the council’s insurance,” and
3. To Minute 1726 should be added, “Cllr. Raine said he didn’t feel the Clerk should have sent the letter to Allerdale.”

With these amendments the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

**1732. Declarations of Interest.**

Cllr. Richardson declared an interest in any items relating to Torpenhow Village Hall and Bobol Ltd. of which he was a director; Cllr. Ms. Little declared an interest in any item relating to Torpenhow Village Hall and Cllr. Clarkson declared an interest in any items relating to Blennerhasset School and Blennerhasset Village Hall.

**1733. Dispensation Requests.**

The Clerk had received a request for dispensation from Cllr. Richardson to speak on the item relating to Bobol Ltd. on which he had a disclosable pecuniary interest.

The council agreed to this dispensation.

**1734. Public Voice Slot.**

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to hear comments from the public.

A complaint had been received that the map board in Torpenhow was leaking in and the map had been damaged.

The Chairman said he had been approached by Mr. P. Turner of Baggrow & Blennerhasset Cricket Club requesting compensation for the removal of sacks of loam. The council felt that, as the bags were left on parish council land and not in the playing field, the council was not responsible for it. The Clerk was asked to write to the cricket club to this effect.

**1735. Items in Action.**

i) Queens Diamond Jubilee Seat. The Chairman reported that the concrete base had been cast, that the seat required some treatment before installation. He suggested that a young man called Christian from Torpenhow be approached and asked to apply oil to the seat. Cllr. Raine proposed a limit of £50.00 for the treatment and this was seconded by Cllr. Powley. All were in favour. (Min. 1722(i) refers.

ii) Village Signs Post Replacement. Cllr. Powley proposed that the council approaches Paul Mitchell to give a price for the installation of the posts. He said he would get a price for the poles. This was agreed. (Min. 1722(ii) refers.)

iii)Blennerhasset Village Hall Trust Deed The chairman of the Blennerhasset and Baggrow Social Centre, Mrs. Caroline Turner, is to arrange for a letter to be obtained from the Land Registry via Mr. Peter Turner and then to contact the solicitor. Cllr. Ms. Little suggested the council requested that Mrs. Turner contact the solicitor and asks for a separate VAT invoice to the council up to a maximum of £750.00 and enquires what the fee total is at the moment. This was agreed. (Min. 1722(iii) refers.)

iv)Village Maps. Correspondence had been received from Mrs. Tinniswood of Cockbridge House and replied to by the Chairman. Since then the map board had been removed and Cllr. Powley has it in his possession. He suggested that the Cockbridge map be abandoned on safety grounds but that it is retained. This was agreed by the council. (Min. 1722(iv) refers.)

v)Map Boards. An order has been sent to Alan Norman regarding relocation of the Torpenhow map board. The map boxes at Torpenhow, Whitrigg and Kirkland are leaking in and the maps are being damaged. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr. Alan Norman expressing the council’s concern and requesting rectification. (Mins. 1722(iv and(x) refer.)

vi) Playing Field. There has been no reply to our letter of 21 July 2015. The Clerk was asked to contact Miss.L.Bowe by email. (Min. 1722(v) refers.)

vii) Maintenance. Mr. G. Thirlwall has been contacted regarding maintenance of the War Memorial and bus shelter but he stated that he does not wish to do either. (Min. 1706(vii) refers.)

viii) Blennerhasset Riverside. Cllr. Clarkson reported that the school is covered by insurance for any out-of-school activities. (Min. 1723(ii) refers.) Cllr. Ms. Little said she had obtained the dates of the visits by the road sweeper from Allerdale B.C. and from Karl Melville of Cumbria C.C regarding gully emptying. (Min. 1706(viii) refers.)

ix) Blennerhasset Village Greens. An order had been sent to JM Tree Services. (Min. 1724 refers.)

**1736. Project Groups.**

i) Aspatria Rural Partnership. Cllr. Ms. Little said she had obtained a map éon which to mark the locations of drains, areas of flooding and any other highway matters. Cllr. Clarkson said he would survey the Blennerhasset portion of the parish and Cllr. Ms. Little said she would survey the Torpenhow portion. She also reported that Local Links at Aspatria is only open on 3 days per week.

ii) Blennerhasset Riverside. Cllr. Clarkson said the school is going to get a tree surgeon to survey the area and then develop a woodland area for school use. Cllr. Powley said he had seen the bridge inspector regarding Blennerhasset Bridge and that the raised river level has caused erosion of the school wall. The inspector said the river level had not been raised and had reported that the school wall was not connected to the bridge. Cllr. Raine suggested that the school should have the extent of the damage assessed and submit a request to the Parish Council for some financial assistance.

iii) Newsletter. The Clerk was asked to send a précis of the draft minutes to the Binsey Beacon.

**1737. Annual Return of Audit.**

The Annual Return had been received from the External Auditor and it was agreed this be accepted by the council.

**1738. Finances.**

a) The Parish Council’s account stands at £18657.13. In accordance with Financial Regulation 2.2 the bank reconciliation and original bank statements were verified by Cllr. Raine and signed by him. The Clerk presented to the council a statement of receipts and payments to date under each of the budget headings.

b) The following payments were approved:-

i) to Bobol Ltd. for Jubilee Seat £400.82

ii) to Torpenhow Village Hall Committee for

meeting of 9 Sept. 2015 £15.00 iii) to BDO LLP for External Audit 2015 £156.00

iv) to JM Tree Services for trimming willow £120.00

**1739. Budget for 2016/2017.**

The Chairman submitted his proposals and these were discussed. A final list of proposals was agreed (copy attached) and it was agreed to submit a request for a precept of £9500 minus CTRS Grant.

**1740. Dental Practice in Aspatria.**

Cllr. Mrs. Mounsey (A.B.C.) reported that McBride & Steele intended to close their Aspatria practice and relocate to their Maryport surgery, taking their patients there. They had no room for expansion in Aspatria and an inability to fill unattended appointments. She said Allerdale B.C. would like a response from the Parish Council. The council felt that, so long as parishioners would be able to get convenient appointments at Maryport, it could have no objections to the proposal on business lines. Cllr. Mrs. Mounsey would pass on the comments of the council to the scrutiny committee

**1741. Motion 1.**

The Chairman proposed the Motion that, “The Chairman shall carry out, on a specified date, a review of the Clerk’s activities and performance in accordance with Standing Order 21© and shall present a report of the review to the subsequent Ordinary Meeting of the Council for its approval by resolution.” The motion was seconded by Cllr. Powley and passed by the meeting.

**1742. Motion 2.**

The Chairman proposed the Motion that, “This Council discontinues the practice of issuing draft agendas before Ordinary Meetings and fully observes the provisions of Standing Order 5.” The motion was seconded by Cllr. Powley and passed by the meeting.

**1743. Planning.**

There were no planning matters to discuss.

**1744. Correspondence.**

A file of correspondence had been circulated to members and additional items submitted to the meeting.

**1745. Next Meeting.**

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 13 January 2016 in Torpenhow Village Hall.

Signed……………………………….

Chairman

Date………………………………….