**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Torpenhow Village Hall on Wednesday**

**13 July 2016**

**1799. Present.**

Cllrs: Richardson, Raine, Powley, Ms. Little. Also present were Cllrs. Mrs. Mounsey (A.B.C.) and A. Bowness (C.C.C.)

**1800. Apologies.**

Cllr. Mrs. Bowe had sent her apologies for absence as she was on holiday.

**1801. Chairman.**

Cllr. Powley proposed and Cllr. Raine seconded the motion that “Cllr. Ms. Little be elected as Chairman for 2016/2017”. There being no other nominations, Cllr. Ms. Little was duly elected.

**1802. Tribute to the late Cllr. Clarkson.**

The Clerk paid tribute to Cllr. Clarkson who had been the Chairman of the council for just two months and expressed the shock that his illness and death had been so sudden. The condolences of the council had been sent to Mrs. Clarkson.

**1803. Minutes.**

It was agreed that the minutes of 11 May 2016 be accepted as a true record of the meeting and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

**1804. Declarations of Interest.**

Cllr. Richardson declared an interest in any matters relating to Torpenhow Village Hall and Cllr. Ms. Little declared an interest in one of the planning applications on the agenda.

**1805. 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.

**1806. Public Voice Slot.**

i) A letter had been received from Miss L. Deasy of Cornerways, Torpenhow to say that she intended to make a path across the village green to her door. The Chairman adjourned the meeting and the councillors visited Cornerways to see what the problem was. The path to her house appears to be obstructed by a bush on her property, the path involving a right of way across the front of Corner House. The Clerk was asked to write to Miss Deasy and to the occupier of Corner House explaining the council’s observations and that it could not permit a path to be constructed across the village green.

ii) A letter had been received from Mr. P. Turner of the Playing Field and Sports Ground, Blennerhasset asking for the council’s consent to complete a grant application, on the council’s behalf, for financial assistance to replace the perimeter fence which had been damaged in the floods of December 2015. The council agreed to his request.

iii) A letter had been received from Mrs. A. Armer of Croft Head, Torpenhow asking if the council could arrange for branches overhanging the pavements to be cut back as they were proving dangerous to pedestrians. Cllr. Bowness (C.C.C.) said this was the responsibility of the county highways and recommended that the council contacts the Highways Hotline and asks for the branches to be trimmed.

iv) Cllr. Richardson said the seat at West End, Torpenhow had been damaged. The police had been contacted and they report that there does not appear to have been any criminal damage. The Clerk was asked to contact the council’s insurance company.

**1807. Items in Action.**

i) Blennerhasset War Memorial. Cllr. Mrs. Bowe has arranged for a man in Blennerhasset to tend to the War Memorial and the Village Seats. Details to be supplied for the next meeting. (Min. 1788(v) refers.)

ii) Revision of Standing Orders. Amendments have been issued to members. (Min. 1788(vi) refers.)

iii) Weed Spraying. The grass-cutting contractor has given a quotation for the spraying. Cllr. Richardson said he believed the county council might already have sprayed the weeds and recommended the council waits a week or two to see if it has been effective. Cllrs. Powley and Richardson said they will see to the spraying of the weeds behind the seat at West End Green, Torpenhow. (Min. 1788(vii) refers.)

iv) Playing Field Grass-cutting. An invoice has been received from the Cricket Club. (Min. 1788(ix) refers.)

v) Playing Field, Registered Ownership. The Land Registry has been contacted and we are awaiting a reply. (Min. 1788(x) refers.)

vi) Defibrillators. Torpenhow Village Hall is still to be contacted.(Min. 17(xi) refers.)

vii) Co-option. The Binsey Link has been contacted with a request to advertise four vacancies. The Clerk was asked to put up notices advertising the vacancies. (Min. 1795 refers.)

vii) Bus Shelters. Two quotations have been received and two more were expected. It was agreed to assess the position at the end of July and to call an extraordinary meeting to decide which to accept. (Min. 1793 refers.)

**1808. Resignation of Clerk.**

The Clerk had submitted his letter of resignation giving the required three months’ notice, his employment to terminate at the end of September. The council agreed to accept his resignation and the Chairman thanked him for his long service.

**1809. Project Groups.**

Aspatria Rural Partnership. Cllr. Ms. Little said that there had been a meeting the previous week but not much was happening. She said that the Citizens’ Advice Bureau at Aspatria library was now in business.

**1810. Finances.**

a) The Parish Council’s account stands at £18140.04.34. The Clerk presented to the council a statement of receipts and payments to date under each of the budget headings. In accordance with Financial Regulation 2.2 the bank reconciliation and original bank statements were verified by Cllr. Raine and signed by him.

b) V.A.T. Refund of £398.42, a grant of £0.40 and an electricity wayleave payment of £78.88 have been received.

c) The following payments were approved:

i) to Mrs. E.J. Tiffin for Internal Audit 2016 £60.00

ii) to Baggrow and Blennerhasset Cricket Club for the

grass-cutting at the Playing Field for 2015 season £1100.00

**1811. Motion 1.**

It had been proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Bowe that, the Council instructs a contractor to attend to the trimming of a number of trees in Blennerhasset. Cllr. Powley said he would ask a tree surgeon to have a look at them to see what work needs doing but the members agreed that trimming was not necessary at the moment but would arrange investigation.

**1812. Motion 2.**

The Chairman had proposed that some form of action be taken regarding the leaking map-board at Torpenhow. Cllr. Richardson has seen Ron Williams regarding replacement maps but it was decided that the Clerk write to Alan Norman to ask what remedial action he proposes to take with all three maps and when, requesting a reply within four weeks.

**1813. Planning.**

i) Applications had been received for:

a) Tree work in Torpenhow Conservation Area at St. Michael and All Angels Church.

b) Upper floor rear extension and a front porch at 2, High Mains, Torpenhow for Mrs. M. Kubasiewicz.

The council had no objections to these applications.

ii) Allerdale Borough Council has given FULL PLANS APPROVAL for the following applications:

1. Extension and detached outbuilding at 1, Croftlands, Torpenhow for Ms. A. Little. (See Min. 1796(i)(c))
2. Four bedroom dwelling off High Road, Blennerhasset for Mr. & Mrs. J. Callister. (See Min. 1796(i)(d))

iii) Cllr. Powley remarked that planning permission for the house next to High Mains, Torpenhow had required the construction of a pavement. This has not, as yet, been completed.

**1814. Correspondence.**

A file of correspondence had been circulated to members. In addition a letter had been received from Sue Hayman M.P. requesting information regarding the adequacy of Broadband in the parish. The general opinion was that it is very poor.

There was also a letter from the Lake District National Park Authority regarding its Statement of Community Involvement and a letter from Torpenhow Church Council requesting financial assistance towards the upkeep of the Churchyard.

**1816. Next Meeting.**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 14 September 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in Blennerhasset and Baggrow Social Centre.

Signed……………………………….

Chairman

Date………………………………….