**Draft Minutes of the Parish Meeting held in Blennerhasset and Baggrow Social Centre on Wednesday 9th May, 2018 at 7.00pm**

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

Also Present: Cllr. A. Bowness, (Cumbria County Council)

20 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1/18 Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr. J. Mounsey (Allerdale Borough Council).

**2/18 Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 10th May 2017 were accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

**3/18 Chairman’s Annual Report**

 The Chairman provided a report on the activities and achievements of the Council during the past year.

* The Parish Council has considered and responded to several panning applications
* Enquiries were made whether it was feasible to have mains gas installed in Torpenhow. Unfortunately, this was deemed to be too costly.
* The Parish Council has looked at ways of funding defibrillators in the Parish.  The Parish Council had submitted an application to the Joyce Wilkinson Trust but unfortunately this was unsuccessful.
* Traffic surveys have been carried out in Torpenhow
* Work has been carried out on the trees on the village green in Blennerhasset
* Ongoing projects include tackling the erosion of the village greens and replacing the notice board at Torpenhow
* Donations have been granted to the Great North Air Ambulance, Cumbria Children’s Dyslexia Project, the Village Halls, Baggrow and Blennerhasset Flood Action Group, St Michaels Church Torpenhow.

The Chairman thanked Members and the Clerk for their support and also thanked the Borough and County Councillors for their assistance.

**4/18 Report by Allerdale Borough Councillor**

 Apologies were received from Cllr. Mounsey.

**5/18 Report by Cumbria County Councillor**

 Cllr. Bowness provided a report in the Annual Meeting.

**6/18 Public Voice Slot**

Members of the public present at the meeting were invited to raise any issues or concerns affecting the parish. The following matters were raised:

* Defibrillators: Will the Parish Council be funding the purchase of defibrillators in the two villages. The Chairman responded that the Parish Council is keen to have defibrillators installed and suggestions had been invited in the past for fund raising ideas. The Parish Council had submitted an application for funding to the Joyce Wilkinson Trust but unfortunately this was unsuccessful. Members were advised that £300 has already been raised at Blennerhasset.

It was agreed that this item will be discussed further at the next meeting once the school has confirmed whether or not they intend to submit an application for funding to the UU Legacy Fund.

* Trees on Blennerhasset Village Green: Concern was raised regarding the recent work carried out to the trees on the village green, particularly regarding the removal of one of the willow trees. Members responded that guidance had been sought from a tree surgeon who advised that three trees should be removed. Two quotations had been requested for this work together with the necessary trimming of the other trees. The correct procedures had been followed with the Parish Council requesting permission from the Borough Council to carry out the work. The Compliance Officer at the Borough Council had visited the site and the consultation letter from the Planning Authority had been displayed on the notice board at Blennerhasset advising that the works would be carried out. A query was raised as to whether any work would be carried out on the chestnut tree on the Green. Members advised that the ENW would have to undertake this work.
* Grass Cutting of the Playing Field in Blennerhasset: This was deferred to the Annual Meeting as the matter was included on this agenda.
* Back Lonning – Stream Banking, Blennerhasset: Concern was raised about the state of the banking at the stream. In three or four places the banking appears to be collapsing, large boulders have been dislodged and in other areas the bank has slipped. The Parish Council agreed to contact the Environment Agency with a request that they examine the area and carry out any stabilisation to the banking.
* Speeding traffic in Blennerhasset: Concern was raised that vehicles, including the school bus, are travelling at excessive speed through the village. The Parish Council agreed to write to the bus company. Enquiries would also be made at Cumbria County Council if a speed monitoring device could be installed at the entrance to the village.

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm

Signed……………………………….

Chairman

Date………………………………….