**Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in Blennerhasset & Baggrow Social Centre on Wednesday 9th January, 2019 at 7.30 pm**

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

Also present: J. Mounsey, Allerdale Borough Councillor (for part of the meeting)

**2153 Apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr A. Bowness, Cumbria County Councillor.

**2154 Minutes 14th November, 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th November, 2018 were accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

**2155 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

**2156 Dispensation Requests**

None received.

**2157 Public Voice Slot**

The following matters were raised:

A trailer is parked on regular occasions on the village green in Blennerhasset.

Members suggested that signage should be sited at appropriate locations on the green to prevent people parking and encroaching onto the village green as unlawful driving or parking on a village green is an offence. The Clerk was requested to make enquiries into suitable signage and obtain prices.

There has been an increase in dog excrement on the green and in the village generally. Cllr Mounsey agreed to contact the Street Scene Officer at the Borough Council to enquire if no dog fouling signs could be put up on the village green.

**2158 Reports from Outside Bodies**

(a) Allerdale Borough Council – Cllr Mounsey reported that Sue Hayman MP will be holding a surgery in Torpenhow between 10.00 and 12.00 on 19th January. Cllr Mounsey also reported that the Borough Council’s Executive will be considering the viability of the proposed stadium in Workington at its meeting next week.

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

(c) Police Community Support Officer – PCSO Peter Crome tendered his apologies and provided a report advising that one incident had been reported since the last meeting relating to the theft of scrap metal, car batteries and a number of alloy wheels from a property in Blennerhasset. A letter had been received from Inspector Rachel Gale to advise that due to current staffing issues the 10 weekly parish engagement meetings introduced last year had been put on hold until further notice.

**2159 Highways**

1. Maintenance – The following matters were raised:

Cllr Bowe reported that the gully wagon had visited Blennerhasset but had failed to clear the gully at the entrance to Bennerhasset near the village hall to a satisfactory standard. The gully is covered over and the area still floods.

Pot holes outside the School at Blennerhasset

Following the resurfacing work carried out near the grit bin at Blennerhasset water is not draining away properly causing problems in freezing conditions.

The stretch of road from the former UU site towards Cockbridge has still not been repaired satisfactorily, pot holes are evident and the drainage is inadequate from Low Mill towards Cockbridge

The Clerk was requested to raise these issues with Highways and UU respectively.

(b) Speed Monitoring

This item to remain on the agenda to be discussed at a future meeting.

**2160** **Planning**

1. Applications received: None

1. Decisions: None

**2161 Finances**

1. The financial statement at 31st December, 2018 had been circulated with the agenda.

Balances at 31st December, 2018

Nat West £ 4,541.85

Cumberland Building Society £10,306.19

Income Received:

COIF Charity £0.36

1. The following payments were approved for payment:

 Torpenhow Village Hall – Room Hire – 14 November 2018 £ 18.00

 Clerk’s account Quarter 3 £333.02

 HMRC PAYE Quarter 3 £ 83.20

 Clerk’s expenses Quarter 3 £134.48

**2162 Correspondence**

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

Clerks and Councils Direct

Cumbria Police – Update on 10 weekly meetings

CALC – Cumbria Strategic Flood Partnership request for contacts for local flood groups

CALC Newsletter November 2018

CALC – Minutes of the annual meeting of the Allerdale District

Torpenhow Village Hall Committee – Public Access Defibrillator

Beaty & Co. - Blennerhasset Playing Field

Zurich Insurance – Blennerhasset Playing Field/Playground Equipment

Blennerhasset & Baggrow Playing Field Committee - Update

Allerdale Borough Council – Footway Lighting

Cllr Raine reported that United Utilities had responded to the parish council’s letter and will be visiting the area to carry out checks the next day.

Additional correspondence received:

Clerks and Councils Direct January 2019

CALC Circular December

Letter of thanks from the Great North Air Ambulance Service for the Parish Council’s donation of £500

Allerdale Borough Council Budget Consultation and Priorities Consultation

**2163 Blennerhasset Playing Field**

1. Blennerhasset and Baggrow Playing Field Committee

Since the last parish council meeting confirmation had not been provided as to whether the Playing Field Committee were to insure the playing field/play equipment and it was still unclear whether there is a functioning Playing Field Committee.

The following actions were agreed:

In the interim the parish council had insured the playing field/play equipment on its policy;

An open meeting would be arranged in early February to discuss the future management arrangements of the field and invite residents who would like to be involved or be on the Committee to come along to the meeting. Notices would be displayed on the notice board and a door drop organised to raise awareness of the meeting.

It was suggested that a sign should be appropriately placed advising groups using the facilities that they must have their own public liability insurance in place.

An estimate had been obtained to replace the goal posts at £289.99 for each post.

1. Registration of the Legal Title

The solicitor had advised that unfortunately the Land Registry will only register property in the name of the legal entity and will not note who it is being held for so they are unable to amend the title.

No progress had been made regarding the transfer of the strip of land at the playing field. The Clerk was requested to contact the solicitor to request clarification as to the fees that would be incurred if they were to progress this matter.

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**2****164 Village Greens**

Torpenhow – It was agreed to accept the quotation from Strawberry How Landscapes to carry out the work to the area behind the bench in Torpenhow. Prior to this work being carried out Cllrs Powley and Richardson agreed to strim the area and spray the weeds. Going forward this area would be included in the grass cutting contract. Options for the green at Whitrigg road ends were also discussed.

Blennerhasset – Options for the green at Blennerhasset including the installation of posts and matting were discussed.

It was agreed that the Clerk would make enquiries whether any funding to enhance the greens is available.

**2165 Notice Board/Map Board**

A discussion took place regarding the notice board for Torpenhow and whether the village map should be incorporated into this. Due to the size and design of the map it was agreed that the map should be separate from the notice board. RESOLVED that the contractor should be instructed to supply a notice board at a cost of £715.00 plus VAT together with the hardwood posts at a cost of £80.00 plus VAT as per the estimate provided on 14th March 2018. The contractor would also be requested to provide an estimate for a suitable frame for the map board.

**2166 Torpenhow Village Signs**

Following a discussion it was agreed that the work should be carried out using the posts supplied by United Utilities.

**2167 Transfer of Footway Lighting to Town/Parish Councils**

Members noted the contents of the letter from the Borough Council regarding the proposed transfer of footway lighting to Town and Parish Councils. The work to establish ownership and numbers of lights owned by ABC and CCC in each town or parish should be completed by June 2019. The Borough Council’s proposal will be to ask the parish council to pick up the energy cost of the lights from April 2020 and maintenance from April 2021. CALC had advised that Parish Councils cannot be forced to take on the lighting. It is unclear at the moment what the position will be if the parish council is unwilling to take over the responsibility for the lights.

**2168 Defibrillator – Torpenhow**

Confirmation had been received from Torpenhow Village Hall Committee that they had agreed to accept the parish council’s offer and suggested that a suitable place for a defibrillator would be on the wall where the bins are currently sited. Cllr Richardson reported that he was still looking at potential sources of funding. Members suggested that an article be included in Binsey Link and a notice put on the notice board inviting suggestions for fund raising.

**2169 Grass Cutting Contract 2019-20**

The current grass cutting contract for Blennerhasset and Torpenhow Village Greens is due to be renewed for the 2019-20 season. RESOLVED that tenders be invited from the usual contractors with a notice displayed on the notice board and an article included in Binsey Link inviting tenders for the contract. Tenders will be considered at the meeting in March and a contractor appointed.

**2170 Tree/Liabilities/Tree Inspections**

Following the correspondence received from CALC regarding tree liabilities/inspections which referred to the Court of Appeal’s decision in a recent case where the judge found that the parish council’s approach to inspection of trees on their land on a three yearly basis was inadequate. Members RESOLVED that an inspection should be carried out of the trees on parish land and an inspection would be conducted at least every two years. Cllr Powley agreed to organise the inspection.

**2171 Agenda items for the Next Meeting**

No additional items to add to the agenda.

**2172** **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 13th March, 2019 at Torpenhow Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed……………………………….

Chairman

Date………………………………….