

**Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in Torpenhow Village Hall on Wednesday  
13<sup>th</sup> March, 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) and A. Bowness, Cumbria County Councillor.

**2173 Apologies for absence**

None.

**2174 Minutes 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019 were accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

**2175 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

**2176 Dispensation Requests**

None received.

**2177 Public Voice Slot**

The following matter was raised:

A letter had been received from a parishioner in Blennerhasset which was considered further at Agenda Item 12(a) (Village Greens).

**2178 Reports from Outside Bodies**

- (a) Allerdale Borough Council – Cllr Mounsey reported that the Borough Council is in the process of delivering the new blue lidded bins that will be used for paper and card. The bin is twice the size of the small green bin currently used for paper and card and will be collected every four weeks. The green bin will be used for glass, cans and plastic to replace the purple bags currently used. Cllr Mounsey also reported that the Borough Council agreed at its full Council meeting to increase its portion of the Council Tax by £5 per year. Cllr Mounsey advised that she would not be standing in the forthcoming Borough elections on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.
- (b) Cumbria County Council – Cllr Bowness reported that the County Council Highways Dept had been awarded an additional £12m funding with Allerdale receiving £1.6m to be used by the end of March. The County Council is one of four councils currently trialling a new type of road surface made from recycled plastic waste.
- (c) Police Community Support Officer – PCSO Peter Crome provided a report advising that since the last meeting four incidents had been reported in Blennerhasset and none in Torpenhow. This was noted by Members.

**2179 Highways**

- (a) Maintenance – The following matters were raised:

Pot holes on the road from Blennerhasset towards the Fitz.

Drains had been missed when the gully wagon last visited the parish. A letter had been sent to Highways advising which drains had not been cleaned out. Cllr Bowness agreed to pursue with County Highways why all the drains in the parish are not on the Highways GPS tracking system. Cllr Bowe reported that the drain near the pumping station at Blennerhasset had been filled in with soil when the gully wagon was last in the area.

Drain blocked near Sycamore Cottage, Torpenhow.

Cllr Raine requested that the road sweeper visit the parish and include the sweeping of the passing places on the road from Bothel to Torpenhow. Cllr Mounsey agreed to contact the Borough Council. The issues on the Torpenhow to Cockbridge road had not been resolved. The road surface needs repaired and the flooding issues in the vicinity of the former United Utilities site are still occurring. The Clerk was requested to pursue with UU and Highways.

(b) Speed Monitoring

Recent issues of speeding vehicles at Blennerhasset were discussed. It was noted that large HGVs are using an unauthorised route through the village. It was suggested that the Traffic Commissioners and Police should be made aware of this. Cllr Giddings agreed to pass on details of the vehicles to the Clerk. The Police would also be requested to monitor the speeds of vehicles entering Blennerhasset from High Road and from the Fitz.

**2180 Planning**

(a) Applications received:

FUL/2019/0023 – Park House, Torpenhow  
Change of use of building to all farm diversification scheme for production of cheese  
No objections

(b) Decisions: None

**2181 Finances**

(a) The financial statement at 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 had been circulated with the agenda.

Balances at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Nat West	£ 3,921.15
Cumberland Building Society	£10,306.55

Income Received:

28 February 2019 COIF Charity £0.36

(b) The following payments were approved for payment:

Strawberry Cottage Landscapes – Grass Cutting	£2710.00
Rocket Sites - Website Hosting Fee	£ 18.00
Clerk's account Quarter 4	£ 333.02
HMRC PAYE Quarter 4	£ 83.20
Clerk's expenses Quarter 4	£ 149.54
Torpenhow Village Hall Committee – Grant	£ 200.00
Blennerhasset Social Centre – Grant	£ 200.00
Baggrow & Blennerhasset Cricket Club – Grass Cutting – 2018	£1000.00

(c) Appointment of Internal Auditor

RESOLVED that Mr. P. Wilson be appointed to carry out the internal audit of the parish council accounts for financial year 2018/19

**2182 Correspondence**

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

Cumbria County Council – Update on Restoration of Directional Signage and Milestones  
Commons Registration – Blennerhasset Village Green  
United Utilities – Update re fault at Torpenhow  
Wigton Baths Trust Newsletter  
Allerdale BC – Election Briefings for Parishes  
United Utilities – Site at Torpenhow  
A1 Arborist  
Beaty & Co – Land at Blennerhasset  
Letter from Parishioner - Blennerhasset Potholes  
Allerdale Borough Council – Blennerhasset Play Area Annual Inspection  
Cumbria County Council – Ellenvale Coaches Service 39 – Fletchertown to Carlisle  
Cumbria County Council – Working Together – Further Information  
Clerks and Councils Direct  
CALC Circular March 2019

## **2183 Blennerhasset Playing Field**

### **(a) Blennerhasset and Baggrow Playing Field Committee**

The Chairman provided a summary of the public meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2019. The meeting was attended by a representative from the School, three representatives from the Cricket Club and three parish councillors. No parishioners had come forward to join the playing field committee. It was suggested that the way forward may be to form a sub committee of the parish council. The clerk was requested to contact the parties involved with the playing field to seek their agreement. In the meantime, quotations are to be invited for grass cutting of the playing field for 12 cuts per year. Clarification would be sought from the Secretary to the Cricket Club regarding the extent of their insurance at the playing field. The letter received from representatives of the Cricket Club following the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February would be acknowledged with their comments noted.

### **(b) Registration of the Legal Title**

Further to Min Ref. 2163(b) it was agreed to request the solicitor to continue with the matter of the transfer of the strip of land. It had been confirmed that any additional work carried out by the solicitor would be included in the registration fee.

### **(c) Playground Inspection**

The Borough Council had contacted the Parish Council regarding carrying out the annual inspection of the Play Area. RESOLVED that the Borough Council be requested to arrange a standard inspection at a cost of £56.00.

## **2184 Village Greens**

### **(a) Blennerhasset – Members considered the letter received from a parishioner regarding the pot holes on the unmade road alongside the village green. The points raised in the letter were noted. The clerk was requested to respond to the parishioner advising that the parish council had been trying to secure grant funding to carry out some work in this area but so far had been unsuccessful. If funding is available in the future the parish council would re-visit the possibility of carrying out some work to address these issues. A response to the other points raised in the letter would also be provided.**

It was reported that the parking issues on the village green are still occurring. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the person responsible for the unlawful parking pointing out that it is an offence to park on or cause damage to a village green. Following the correspondence received from Commons Registration it was suggested that advice be sought from CALC as to whether or not the parish council are allowed to erect no parking signs on the village green.

Cllr Mounsey was requested to ask the Borough Council if they are able to put up No Dog Fouling signs at the village green.

### **(b) Torpenhow – Once the weeds have been sprayed at the area behind the seat at West End Torpenhow Strawberry Cottage Landscapes will be instructed to carry out the work detailed in their quotation dated 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018.**

## **2185 Weed Control at the Riverbank, Blennerhasset**

Cllr Powley reported that work was necessary along the riverbank in Blennerhasset to control the weeds. It was suggested that Strawberry Cottage Landscapes be invited to submit a quotation to carry out the spraying of the weeds. All were in agreement. The Clerk was requested to contact the contractor for a quotation.

## **2186 Notice Board/Map Board - Torpenhow**

Further to Min Ref 2165 the contractor had been advised that the quotation of £715.00 plus VAT to supply the notice board together with £80.00 plus VAT to fix on new hardwood posts had been accepted.

The contractor had provided an additional quotation to make and fix a notice board to incorporate the map of Torpenhow for the sum of £624.00 plus VAT. It was agreed that further quotations for the map board would be requested. Cllr Richardson agreed to contact the manufactures of the existing notice board.

**2187 Defibrillator – Torpenhow**

Further to Min Ref 2168 a notice had been displayed on the notice board in Torpenhow and in Binsey Link inviting suggestions for fund raising. No suggestions had been received. Sources of grant funding were discussed and whether to approach the Village Hall Committee to enquire whether they would reconsider their decision against applying to the United Utilities Legacy Fund for funding. It was agreed this would be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

**2188 Grass Cutting Contract 2019-20**

Contractors had been invited to tender for the grass cutting contract for the 2019-20 season. A notice had been displayed on the parish notice boards and in the Binsey Link. One tender had been received:

Strawberry Cottage Landscapes £2780

The contractor’s comments regarding the uneven ground conditions and the specification of 20-40mm not being achievable were noted. RESOLVED to award the tender at the price of £2780 to Strawberry Cottage Landscapes for the next two seasons.

**2189 Tree/Liabilities/Tree Inspections**

Further to Min Ref 2170 it was agreed that two quotations should be obtained to undertake an inspection of the trees in Blennerhasset. Cllr Giddings agreed to pass on details of a contractor to Cllr Powley who would arrange for the quotations to be provided.

**2190 Parish/Borough Elections 2 May 2019**

Members noted that Borough and Parish elections will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019. The notice of election will be published on 18<sup>th</sup> March. Nomination packs had been distributed to Members with the agenda. The Clerk agreed to return the completed nomination forms to Electoral Services at the Borough Council. It was suggested that a notice be displayed on the notice boards encouraging parishioners to get involved with the parish council. Members noted that following the review of the ward boundaries the parish will now fall in the Boltons Ward.

**2191 Agenda items for the Next Meeting**

Defibrillator - Torpenhow

**2192 Dates of Next and Future Meetings**

The meeting dates for the next Council year were agreed as follows:

- Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019 – Torpenhow Village Hall – 7.00pm
- Bi-monthly Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019 – Blennerhasset & Baggrow Social Centre – 7.30pm
- Bi-Monthly Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – Torpenhow Village Hall – 7.30pm
- Bi-Monthly Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – Blennerhasset & Baggrow Social Centre – 7.30pm
- Bi-Monthly Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Torpenhow Village Hall – 7.30pm
- Bi-Monthly Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 - Blennerhasset & Baggrow Social Centre – 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm

Signed.....  
 Chairman  
 Date.....