**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in Blennerhasset & Baggrow Social Centre on Wednesday 13th November, 2019 at 7.15 pm**

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

Also Present for part of the meeting:

Simon Sharp, Planning & Building Control Manager, Allerdale Borough Council

Cllr Keith Little, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation, Cumbria County Council

Cllr M. Grainger, Allerdale Borough Councillor

Cllr A. Bowness, Cumbria County Councillor

Four Members of the Public

Simon Sharp, Planning and Building Control Manager from the Borough Council provided Members with an update on the review of Conservation Areas currently being carried out by the Borough Council. With regard to the Blennerhasset Conservation Area initial assessments of the architecture and historic qualities will be undertaken and whether the 1981 boundary needs to be altered will be looked at. The first draft with the initial findings will be presented to the Parish Council in January. At this time the Parish Council will be asked for their views on the best way to share the Borough Council’s findings with the community. A final draft will then be published for formal consultation prior to approval in 2020.

**2259 Apologies for absence**

None.

**2260 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th September, 2019 were accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

**2261 Declarations of Interest**

None.

**2262 Dispensation Requests**

None received.

**2263 Public Voice Slot**

The meeting was adjourned for members of the public present to ask questions relating to items on the agenda.

A595 Improvements at Bothel – Several questions were put to Cllr Keith Little, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation at the County Council in relation to the proposed improvements to the A595 at Bothel. Cllr. K. Little agreed to pass on the concerns raised to Cumbria County Council.

Cllr K. Little left the meeting at this point

Skip at Blennerhasset - Cllr Giddings reported that he had been contacted by a parishioner regarding a skip that has been sited next to the village green at Blennerhasset for several years. Cllr Bowe agreed to make some enquiries as when the skip is likely to be moved.

The meeting was re-convened.

**2264 Reports from Outside Bodies**

(a) Allerdale Borough Council – Cllr. Grainger provided Members with an update on the waste/recycling service and footway lighting. It was reported to Cllr Grainger that a street light is out opposite the Village Hall, Blennerhasset.

(b) Cumbria County Council – Cllr. Bowness reported that the County Council is currently updating their maps for winter gritting. Cllr Bowness advised that Highways should be informed of any roads that are school bus routes that are not currently gritted as category 1. Members advised that the A595 to Torpenhow and Whitrigg and the A595 to Blennerhasset is not currently gritted as category 1. The Clerk was requested to pass the information to Highways.

(c) Police Community Support Officer – A report had been received from PCSO Hannah Donaughee who is the new PCSO for the area of Blennerhasset and Torpenhow. The report advised that no incidents of crime had been reported for the areas since the last meeting. A Halloween/Bonfire Safety talk had been given to children at the local primary school.

**2265 Highways**

1. Maintenance

Cllr K. Little had agreed to make enquiries at Cumbria County Council Highways regarding the ongoing issues in the parish.

1. Speed Monitoring

The Clerk reported that she had raised the concerns previously reported with the Collision Reduction Officer at Cumbria Police who had confirmed that arrangements had been put in place for a device to be placed at Blennerhasset to monitor the traffic coming into the village. The results will be discussed at the next CRASH meeting and the Parish Council will be updated. Concerns were again raised about HGVs still coming through Blennerhasset which is a restricted route. It was agreed to raise this with the PCSO for the area.

1. A595 Improvements at Bothel

This item had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

**2266** **Planning**

1. Applications received:

HOU/2019/0206 – Harley Croft, Torpenhow

Rear extension constructed in lightweight slate

CAT/2019/0028 – Millfield, Torpenhow

T1 – Willow - Fell T2 - Willow – Pollard

LBC/2019/0028 – Former Hearse House, Torpenhow

Listed building consent for new glazed screen, replacement rooflights, new internal linings and rainwater goods

1. Decisions:

OUT/2019/0026 – The old Sawmill, Blennerhasset, Wigton

Outline application for a single dwelling OUTA APPROVED

FUL/2019/0176 – Former Hearse House, Torpenhow

External alterations to former hearse house FULL PLANS APPROVED

HOU/2019/0206 – Harley Croft, Torpenhow

Rear extension constructed in lightweight slate FULL PLANS APPROVED

**2267 Finances**

1. The financial statement at 31st October, 2019 had been circulated with the agenda.

Balances at 31st October

Nat West £0.00

Cumberland Building Society £18,133.87

Income Received

Allerdale Borough Council – Half Yearly Precept £5,325.00

1. The following payments were approved for payment:

 Torpenhow Village Hall – Room Hire 4.9.19 £ 16.00

 Clerk – Refund Information Commissioners Office £ 40.00

 W.S Reid Limited – Noticeboard £ 858.00

 Blennerhasset & Baggrow Cricket Club Grass Cutting 2019 Season £1400.00

 Strawberry Cottage Landscapes £2600.00

**2268 Budget 2020/21**

The draft budget had been circulated. The usual expenditure items were discussed. Members noted that it had been discussed at the recent three tier meeting that parish council’s may have to take on the energy costs for footway lighting from 2021. The energy costs will be £30 per light per year. Members agreed to oppose any request to take over the responsibility for footway lighting. It was therefore RESOLVED that the precept should remain at £10,650 for 2020/21.

**2269 Correspondence**

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

CALC Newsletter September 2019

CALC AGM 2019 Invitation

CALC New Password and Member of Staff

CALC Free Cyber Awareness Training

CALC Non native invasive species – water primrose

CALC Climate Change Event

Allerdale Borough Council – Local Plan (Part 2) Site Allocations Main Modification Consultation

Allerdale Borough Council – Council Plan 2020 – 2030

Cumbria County Council - Ellenvale 66 / 67 Service

CALC Agenda and Papers October 3 tier meeting

CALC Annual Report 2019 and AGM Papers

**2270 Blennerhasset Playing Field**

1. Playing Field Committee – It was agreed that the representative from the Cricket Club be invited to the next parish council meeting to discuss the way forward with the management of the field. Members noted that the Borough Council had delivered a waste bin for the field/playground.
2. Registration of the legal title – Following the last meeting the clerk had contacted the present trustee but no progress had been made. Members agreed to contact the solicitor for advice regarding the parish councils’ duties and responsibilities for the land.

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**2271 Village Greens**

1. Blennerhassset – The ongoing issues with vehicles encroaching onto the green was discussed. It was suggested that an estimate be obtained to install kerbing along the edge of the green. Cllr Powley agreed to contact Tolsons for an estimate.
2. Torpenhow – Strawberry Cottage Landscapes had advised that the area at West End, Torpenhow had been sprayed, prepared and seeded, unfortunately the seeds hadn’t struck and the area will be re-seeded in the spring. An invoice for the work will be submitted once the contractor is satisfied with the work.

**2272 Riverbank, Blennerhasset**

It was reported that the work had now been carried out at the riverbank.

**2273 Notice Board/Map Board - Torpenhow**

Noticeboard – It was reported that the new notice board had been installed and an invoice received for the work. It was noted that although a set of keys had been left with the noticeboard there doesn’t appear to be a lock on the door. A further issue was reported that water appears to be evident on the inside of the noticeboard. Members requested that the contractor be asked to look into these matters before the invoice is paid.

Map Board – The contractor had now returned the map board to the parish council. The clerk was requested to obtain a quotation for a lectern style board to be considered at the next meeting.

**2274 Defibrillator – Torpenhow**

Cllr Bowe had forwarded details of funding streams used by the community groups in Blennerhasset to the clerk. A letter regarding raising funding had been received from Blennerhaset & Baggrow Village Hall Committee. Cllr Raine reported that Torpenhow Village Hall Committee had advised that their constitution does not allow for fund raising for purposes other than the village hall. It was suggested that the PCC should be contacted to enquire if they would be willing to assist with fund raising and whether they would be agreeable to having the defib affixed to the Old Hearse House at Torpenhow. The Clerk was also requested to obtain an estimate for a refurbished defib.

**2275 Trees at Blennerhasset/Tree Liabilities**

Cllr Powley reported that he had met that day with the contract supervisor from Lowther Forestry Group. A survey and inspection of the trees had been undertaken. Cllr Powley reported that there is no immediate threat at the moment but the trees should be monitored regularly. The full report will be forwarded once available.

**2276 Repainting Bus Shelter at Torpenhow**

It was agreed to defer this item until Spring 2020.

**2277 Blennerhasset Conservation Area Appraisal**

This item had been discussed earlier in the meeting. The first draft is expected to be presented at the meeting in January.

**2278 Releasing of Sky Lanterns**

The Borough Council had responded to advise that a policy had been drafted and had been endorsed by the Head of Community Services. It will then be discussed with the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Quality before being presented to Members for adoption.

**2279 Public Right of Way**

Cumbria County Council had provided a response regarding the parish council’s application for a new public right of way. The application is now 17 on the list of outstanding applications and should be dealt with within the next 12 months.

**2280 Donation Request**

A request for financial assistance had been received from the Great North Air Ambulance Service. RESOLVED that a donation of £500 should be granted.

**2281 Vacancies/Co-option of new Members**

Several vacancies still exist on the parish council following the elections in May. It was agreed to continue to advertise the vacancies on the parish notice boards.

**2282 Agenda items for the Next Meeting**

No additional matters to be added to the agenda.

**2283**  **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th January 2020 at Torpenhow Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.27 pm

Signed……………………………….

Chairman

Date………………………………….