

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in Torpenhow Village Hall on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>  
January 2020 at 7.30 pm**

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

Also Present: Cllr A. Bowness, Cumbria County Councillor (for part of the meeting)

**2284 Apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr M. Grainger, Allerdale Borough Councillor.

**2285 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 were accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

**2286 Declarations of Interest**

None.

**2287 Dispensation Requests**

None received.

**2288 Public Voice Slot**

No members of the public were present at the meeting. The following matters were raised on behalf of parishioners:

As a result of a recent incident/road closure a large amount of traffic had been diverted through Blennerhasset. Damage had been caused to the village green as large traffic had encroached onto or driven over part of the Green. The Clerk was requested to contact the police to request that in the event of a similar incident that a more suitable diversion route be considered where possible.

A large amount of debris had been left on the highway on the road from Low Wood Nook towards Blennerhasset. The Clerk was requested to contact Cumbria County Council to advise that the contractor/farmer had failed to clear the hedge cuttings away.

A carpet and several Christmas trees had been dumped on the playing field at Blennerhasset. The Clerk was requested to report this to the Borough Council.

It was noted that over the Christmas period several waste bins had blown into the highway at Blennerhasset.

**2289 Reports from Outside Bodies**

- (a) Allerdale Borough Council – Apologies had been received from Cllr M. Grainger
- (b) Cumbria County Council – Cllr Bowness agreed to speak to Cllr K. Little regarding the highways issues raised at the last meeting.
- (c) Police Community Support Officer - Inspector Rachel Gale had provided information on a new localised newsletter that will be launched in mid-January from the West Local Focus policing teams. The Clerk agreed to sign up to receive the newsletter. It was reported that since the last meeting a theft from a motor vehicle had occurred in Torpenhow and incidents of the theft of quad bikes had been reported in the area.

**2290 Highways**

- (a) Maintenance – It was noted that a response had not been received from Cllr K. Little regarding the highway maintenance issues in the parish. The Clerk was asked to request an update from Cllr Little.

It was also noted that following several requests the road sweeper had still not been in the parish. The Clerk was requested to contact the Borough Council regarding the standard/lack of road sweeping.

- (b) Speed Monitoring

The Clerk reported that the Police had been contacted regarding the HGVs passing through Blennerhasset. Cllr Giddings reported that an incident involving a speeding vehicle had occurred recently in Blennerhasset. The Police had suggested that photographic evidence/video evidence of HGV vehicles and speeding vehicles should be obtained. It was suggested that a flashing sign similar to the one in Parsonby might deter speeding drivers. The Clerk was requested to contact Plumbland Parish Council for information on the device.

## 2291 Planning

- (a) Applications received:

None

- (b) Decisions:

LBC/2019/0028 – Former Hearse House, St Michael’s Church, Torpenhow  
Listed Building Consent for new glazed screen, replacement rooflights, new internal linings and rainwater goods.  
LBC GRANTED

## 2292 Finances

- (a) The financial statement at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019 had been circulated with the agenda.

Balances at 31<sup>st</sup> December

Cumberland Building Society      £13,578.24

Income Received

COIF Charity                              £0.37

Draft Council Tax Base – The Borough Council had advised that the draft council tax base for the parish for 2020/21 will be £172.85. Dividing the precept by the council tax base will give an estimated Band D Council Tax Charge.

- (b) The following payments were approved for payment:

Blennerhasset Village Hall – Room Hire 13.11.19	£ 24.00
Clerks account Quarter 3	£339.73
HMRC PAYE Quarter 3	£ 84.80
Clerk’s expenses Quarter 3	£134.44

## 2293 Correspondence

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

CALC Newsletter December 2019 + Legal News

CALC Minutes Three Tier meeting 24 October 2019

Torpenhow DCC – Defibrillator Torpenhow

Allerdale BC – Budget Consultation 2020/21

Allerdale BC – Footway Lighting in Allerdale

Historic England – Torpenhow War Memorial Notification of Designation Decision

Cockbridge Farm - Woodland Management Plan

Additional correspondence received:

Clerks and Councils Direct

Allerdale Borough Council – Get Safe Online Training 20<sup>th</sup> January

Letter of thanks from the Great North Air Ambulance Service for the Parish Councils donation of £500

## 2294 Blennerhasset Playing Field

- (a) Playing Field Committee – The representative from the Cricket Club had been invited to the meeting, unfortunately due to work commitments he was unable to attend. It was suggested that the invitation be extended to the meeting in March.
- (b) Registration of the legal title – Advice had been received from the solicitors regarding the parish council’s responsibilities and liabilities with regard to the fence at the playing field. The solicitor suggested that it may be the current registered owner’s responsibility as the legal owner. Cllr Bowe agreed to speak to the registered owner to try to progress this matter.

## 2295 Village Greens

Blennerhasset - Cllr Powley reported that he was still awaiting an estimate from Tolsons for the installation of kerbing. Other options were discussed. Cllr Powley agreed to discuss the options with Tolsons Contractors.

**2296 Map Board - Torpenhow**

The Clerk reported that quotations from two different companies had been requested but had not been received in time for the meeting. It was suggested that Wigton Town Council be contacted to enquire where they had obtained the display board sited on Lowmoor Road.

It was noted that a lock had now been fitted to one side of the noticeboard. The issue of water leaking in had not been resolved. The Clerk was requested to contact the contractor to advise him that this issue had not been rectified.

**2297 Defibrillator – Torpenhow**

Further to min ref. 2273 the PCC had been contacted to enquire if they would be willing to have a defib sited at the Old Hearse House. The PCC had advised this will be discussed at their meeting in January. Cllr Raine reported that the Village Hall Committee were now considering applying for funding for a defibrillator. The Clerk was requested to forward information on sources of funding to Cllr Raine.

**2298 Blennerhasset Conservation Area Appraisal**

Further to min ref. 2277 no further information was available at the time of the meeting.

**2299 Footway Lighting**

The Borough Council had written to advise on the proposals regarding the future of footway lighting in Allerdale. The new proposals are that Town and Parish Councils will be asked to pick up the energy costs of lights within their parish from April 2021. An updated inventory is being prepared and the parish council will be informed of the approximate costs for energy usage by the end of February 2020. The Parish Council will have the opportunity to ask for lights no longer required to be removed or switched off. The Borough Council will continue to pick up the maintenance costs for the foreseeable future. Any bulbs needing replaced will be replaced with led lamps to further reduce energy costs. It was agreed to enquire under what legislation the Borough Council have the power to pass on the responsibility for footway lighting to parish councils.

**2300 Allerdale Borough Council Budget Consultation 2020/21**

The Borough Council’s Budget Consultation 2020/21 had been circulated with the agenda. Following a discussion it was agreed to submit a response opposing the introduction of a charge for garden waste and a charge for replacement bins. Members were encouraged to also submit an individual response.

**2301 Agenda items for the Next Meeting**

Repainting Bus Shelter Torpenhow

**2302 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at Blennerhasset & Baggrow Social Centre

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

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