

**Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held on  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 at 7.30 pm**

Present: Cllrs. J. Bowe (for part of the meeting), A. Little (Chair), W. Powley (for part of the meeting), A. Raine.

**2343 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. M. Giddings, Cllr M. Grainger, Allerdale Borough Councillor and A. Bowness, Cumbria County Councillor.

**2344 Minutes 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

As the meeting was not quorate for this item the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020 will be signed at the next quorate meeting.

**2345 Declarations of Interest**

None.

**2346 Dispensation Requests**

None received.

**2347 Public Voice Slot**

No members of the public had requested to join the meeting

The following matters were raised:

Grass cutting in front of the Bungalows at Blennerhasset – A parishioner had raised concern that the grass cuttings are not being cleared off the pavements. The Clerk confirmed this had been raised with the contractor.

Fly tipping at Blennerhasset – The Borough Council had investigated this and advised that they had spoken to the occupier of the property adjacent to the village green who had confirmed the builder will be disposing of the rubbish. Cllr Bowe reported she had received a further report of fly tipping/burning of rubbish on the parish land where the gas pipes are near the river at Blennerhasset. It was suggested that the byelaws for use of the village greens should be displayed on the noticeboard. A plan showing the areas which make up the village green with the gas pipes identified on the plan would also be displayed alongside the notice.

Parking Issues at Blennerhasset – It was reported that vehicles are parked too close to the junction/crossroads at Blennerhasset. This is causing problems for large vehicles to turn at the junction. The Clerk was requested to report this issue to the local Police Community Support Officer.

It was reported that vehicles are being driven over the village green outside the bungalows at Blennerhasset. The Clerk was requested to write to the occupiers of the three bungalows to remind them that the area in front of their property is part of the village green and it is an offence to drive over a village green.

Cllr Bowe reported that work is required to clear the branches that have broken off from some of the trees on the village green in Blennerhasset. It was also reported that a Christmas tree had been planted on the green without permission. Cllr Powley agreed to contact the tree surgeon who previously undertook the work on the trees to request that any urgently required work is carried out and to also dispose of the unauthorised tree.

Incidents of dog fouling are still occurring on the village green and the playing field in Blennerhasset.

Torpenhow Village Hall Management Committee had approached the parish council to enquire if they intend to honour the offer to pay for the installation and reasonable running costs of the defibrillator which is currently being installed at Torpenhow Village Hall. The Clerk was requested to contact the fund-raising committee at Torpenhow to enquire what the estimated costs are likely to be.

Members agreed that the offer be extended to Blennerhasset.

## 2348 Reports from Outside Bodies

- (a) Allerdale Borough Council – Apologies had been received from Cllr M. Grainger.
- (b) Cumbria County Council – Apologies had been received from Cllr A. Bowness
- (c) Police Community Support Officer – The police newsletter for the Maryport, Aspatria, Silloth and Wigton area had been circulated by email. The Clerk reported there was nothing in the newsletter relating to the parish.

## 2349 Highways

- (a) Maintenance

Further to minute reference 2329 the Highways Network Manager had been contacted regarding the outstanding highways issues in the parish. Confirmation had been received that works on the Blennerhasset to the Fitz road will be carried out during August and a team with a high pressure vacuum unit will tackle the gully issues raised. Later this financial year some carriageway patching works from Torpenhow village to the A595 at Cockbridge Cottages will be carried out.

Members noted that the gully wagon had not as yet been in the villages and only patching had been carried out on the Blennerhasset to Fitz road. The Highways Network Manager had not addressed the parish council's concerns regarding the Torpenhow to Ireby road and Cross Lane at Torpenhow. As Highways do not appear to be making any attempt to maintain these areas with the Torpenhow to Ireby road flooding on a regular basis, it was suggested that Cllr Keith Little at Cumbria County Council be requested to raise these issues with Highways.

Members requested that the road sweeper visit the villages at the beginning of October after the hedgerows have been cut back.

- (b) Speed Monitoring – There was no update regarding the speeding issues in Blennerhasset.

The Clerk reported that the consultation on the proposed 50mph speed limit at Bothel is likely to take place in September. Cllr Keith Little, Cumbria County Council had advised that the parish council will be kept informed of any developments.

## 2350 Planning

- (a) Applications received:

HOU/2020/00107 – Nichol Croft, Torpenhow  
Single Storey sunroom extension

FUL/2020/0164 – Kirkland Green, Mealsgate  
Roof over silage clamp

VAR/2020/0016 – Ellenside Garage, Blennerhasset  
Variation of condition 2 of planning approval 2/2017/0451 regarding revisions to house design

HOU/2020/0131 – Kirkland Gate, Mealsgate  
Alterations and extensions to replace rear entrance porch and conservatory

FUL/2020/0173 – Whitehead Brow, Mealsgate  
Extension to existing agricultural building

- (b) Decisions:

HOU/2020/00107 – Nichol Croft, Torpenhow  
Single Storey sunroom extension FULL PLANS APPROVED

LBC/2019/0032 – 3 Winder Cottages, Blennerhasset  
To replace existing single glazed timber windows and one set of single glazed timber patio doors with aluminium double glazed units and timber front door with composite door.  
LBC GRANTED

VAR/2020/0016 – Ellenside Garage, Blennerhasset  
Variation of condition 2 of planning approval 2/2017/0451 regarding revisions to house design  
FULL PLANS APPROVED

## 2351 Parish Council's Insurance

The renewal documentation had been received from BHIB Limited. There was no increase in the premium from the previous year. RESOLVED to accept the renewal at a premium of £347.51.

## 2352 Finances

(a) The financial statement at 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2020 had been circulated with the agenda.

Balances at 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2020

Cumberland Building Society	£15,001.69
NatWest	£ 276.20

(b) The following payments were approved for payment:

Clerk's account Quarter 2	£339.73
HMRC PAYE Quarter 2	£ 84.80
Clerk's expenses Quarter 2	£122.93
BHIB Ltd – Annual Insurance	£347.51

Data Protection fee due 3 November	£ 35.00
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It was agreed to set up a direct debit mandate for the data protection fee thereby reducing the fee from £40.00 to £35.00.

Donation granted to Citizens Advice Allerdale	£ 50.00
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## 2353 Correspondence

Correspondence received since the last meeting:

Charity Commission – Blennerhasset Playing Field  
Cumbria County Council -Latest News from Cumbria County Council  
Cumbria Police - Maryport, Aspatria, Silloth and Wigton Newsletter  
Allerdale Borough Council - Adoption of the Allerdale Local Plan (Part 2) 22 July 2020  
CALC - Local Government Reorganisation Cumbria  
CALC - Allerdale 3 tier meeting 17 September 2020  
National Association of Local Council Chief Executive's Bulletin  
CALC - Developing your skills programme September to end of December 2020  
CALC - National Pay Award - NALC briefing on salary award  
External Auditors - Data logged – notification of exempt status  
CALC - Join the Great British September Clean 11-27 September  
Allerdale Borough Council - Dog Fouling PSPO Consultation  
CALC/CCC - Highways Asset Management Strategy 2020-2025  
Donation Request from Citizens Advice Allerdale  
Torpenhow Defibrillator Fund - Letter of thanks for the parish council's donation

## 2354 Blennerhasset Playing Field

Advice had been sought from the Charity Commission as to whether the Parish Council can be removed from their connection with the playing field at Blennerhasset. The advice received stated that the scheme states that the Parish Council will be the custodian trustee of the charity. If the Council no longer wish to be involved the managing trustees could amend the governing document to reflect this. The Charity Commission also advised that the charity is in default of its requirements to submit annual returns and the Charity Commission can only continue to correspond after the annual returns are brought fully up to date. The advice from the Charity Commission was considered by members and it was agreed to reply to the Charity Commission advising that the management committee is no longer in existence and in light of this seek their advice on how to close the scheme down.

In relation to the Play Area Members noted that the sign advising that the Play Area is closed had been removed. Cllr Giddings had reported that some of the equipment is broken and not safe to play on. Members discussed whether all the equipment should be removed. It was agreed that Cllr Powley would carry out an inspection of the area to see if the broken equipment can be repaired. In the meantime, a notice would be displayed on the parish noticeboard advising that the Play Area is closed until further notice.

**2355 Footway Lighting**

No further information had been received from the Borough Council.

**2356 Bus Shelters**

Cllr Powley reported that the contractor had advised she will carry out the work as soon as possible.

**2357 Donation Request**

A request for financial assistance had been received from Citizens Advice Allerdale. RESOLVED to grant a donation of £50.00.

**2358 Agenda items for the Next Meeting**

Budget for 2021/22

**2359 Date of Next Meeting**

Bi-Monthly Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020

The meeting closed at 8.47 pm

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