**Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held on**

**Wednesday 11th November, 2020 at 7.30 pm**

Present: Cllrs. J. Bowe A. Little (Chair) and W. Powley.

**2360 Apologies for absence**

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

**2361 Minutes 15th July 2020 and 9th September 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2020 and 9th September 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

**2362 Declarations of Interest**

None.

**2363 Dispensation Requests**

None received.

**2364 Public Voice Slot**

No members of the public had requested to join the meeting. The following matters had been raised:

Fly Tipping, Blennerhasset – Rubbish is still being dumped and burnt on the parish land at Blennerhasset. It was agreed to monitor, if this continues the matter will be reported to the police.

Pot Holes – Blennerhasset – A resident in Blennerhasset had raised the issues of the potholes on the unadopted road in front of Manse Row. Due to the coronavirus pandemic this had not been pursued further after being discussed at the meeting in March. It was agreed that a price would be obtained for resurfacing the area next year, if the residents are willing to contribute towards the costs. In the interim Cllr Powley agreed to arrange for temporary repairs to fill the worst pot holes at the top end of the road turning left from High Road.

Parking – Ellenside Bungalows – Following the parish council’s letter to the occupiers of the bungalows at Ellenside, Blennerhasset relating to vehicles crossing over the village green, one of the residents had raised the problems with parking and the difficulties the disabled residents have. It was suggested that Home Housing be contacted as the path to the bungalows was installed by them when the bungalows were built. Members felt that Home Housing should take responsibility for the maintenance of the path and this should be made suitable for the residents. With regard to the dog fouling the residents will be advised to report incidents to the Borough Council.

Village Hall, Blennerhasset – The correspondence and surveyors report regarding the building issues at the village hall had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members noted the contents of the report and agreed to await further information and prices for the repair work.

**2365 Reports from Outside Bodies**

(a) Allerdale Borough Council – Apologies had been received from Cllr M. Grainger.

(b) Cumbria County Council – Cllr A. Bowness was not present.

(c) Police Community Support Officer – There were no matters relating to the parish in the police newsletter for the Maryport, Aspatria, Silloth and Wigton area. Cumbria Police have recently placed five full time officers into Wigton.

**2366 Matters arising from the meeting on 9th September, 2020**

Bus Shelters – Cllr Powley reported that the bus shelters had been painted and an invoice received.

Trees - Village Green, Blennerhasset - Cllr Powley reported that the contractor will be looking at this in the next few months.

Parking Issues – Blennerhasset – Cllr Bowe reported that the vehicle parked near the junction in Blennerhasset had been moved. It was agreed to monitor this.

**2367 Highways**

1. Maintenance

Following the last meeting Cllr. K. Little, the Cabinet Member for Highways at Cumbria County Council had been contacted regarding the ongoing matters in the parish. Subsequent to this the Highways Network Manager had responded to the Parish council’s concerns and advised that:

Torpenhow to Ireby Road - Additional drainage work had been carried out in August; this had not been completed as part of the August additional high pressure vactor unit works due to the machine being too large for the road. A smaller machine will be attending the site to clean/investigate when small scale resurfacing works are carried out on 12/13th October 2020.

Blennerhasset to Fitz road - There are currently no funds available to fund the extent of work required which are estimated in the region of £90,000 - £100,000. The jet patching works that were done earlier this year, were done as a short-term cost-effective fix to address the immediate areas of concern. They are not to be considered a permanent replacement for resurfacing. When funds are available surfacing will be done here, but it will not be during this financial year.

U2104 Cross Lane from its junction with the U2105 and High Woodnook is classified as an unsurfaced road. There are no plans (or funds) to upgrade the surface.

Flooding near the Old Church, Ireby to Torpenhow road - Following initial drainage investigation works at this location, it was noted that there could be a flow restriction in place within private land that is potentially reducing the existing culverts ability to drain water, therefore causing a backup of water within the private land and at times onto the carriageway. This issue is currently being investigated further; a Technician will be visiting site to determine the issue. Once highlighted a letter may be sent to the landowner to action the reduction in flow or depending on the volume of water noted a scheme may be required to increase the capacity of the existing culvert.

The Chairman reported that no drains had been cleared on the Torpenhow to Ireby Road

The drains need clearing on High Road and the Fitz road, Blennerhasset.

Cllr Bowe agreed to contact Highways regarding the resurfacing of the Blennerhasset to Fitz road. It was proposed that Cllr Bowness should be made aware of the parish council’s dissatisfaction regarding the standard of work on this road.

A request for the road sweeper to sweep both villages to be submitted to the Borough Council.

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

The Clerk reported that the 50mph speed limit order on the A595 at Bothel had been agreed by Cumbria County Council Local Area Committee on 9th November.

**2368** **Planning**

1. Applications received:

None

1. Decisions:

FUL/2020/0164 – Kirkland Green, Mealsgate

Roof over silage clamp

FULL PLANS APPROVED

HOU/2020/0131 – Kirkland Gate, Mealsgate

Alterations and extensions to replace rear entrance porch and conservatory

FULL PLANS APPROVED

FUL/2020/0175 – Kirkland Green, Mealsgate

Roof over midden FULL PLANS APPROVED

**2369 Finances**

1. The financial statement at 31st October, 2020 had been circulated with the agenda.

Balances at 31st October, 2020

Cumberland Building Society £19,341.57

NatWest £ 276.20

Income Received:

Allerdale Borough Council – Half Yearly Precept £5,325.00

1. The following payments were approved for payment:

N. Harrison – Painting Bus Shelters £ 397.00

Strawberry Cottage Landscapes – Grounds Maintenance £3060.00

(grass cutting/weed spraying/work at West End, Torpenhow)

Donation granted to Great North Air Ambulance Service £ 500.00

**2370 Budget 2021-22**

The draft budget for 2021/22 had been circulated with the agenda. Members discussed the usual items of expenditure and any anticipated expenditure.

RESOLVED that the precept should remain at £10650 for the next financial year.

**2371 Correspondence**

Correspondence received since the last meeting:

Allerdale Borough Council – Footway Lighting

Charity Commission – Blennerhasset Playing Field

Clerks and Councils Direct

CALC Circular September/October 2020

CALC – Minutes Annual meeting and Three Tier meeting

Signage for Torpenhow Defibrillator

Allerdale Borough Council – Public Spaces Protection Dog Fouling Order 2020

Home Housing – Parking Issues at Ellen Bank Bungalows

Resident – Ellen Bank Bungalows Re Parking Issues

Cumbria County Council – Temporary Road Closure Blennerhasset Bridge

CALC – Code of Conduct Training 25th November 2020

CALC – Update – Local Government Re-organisation

Electricity North West – Tree Trimming Blennerhasset – Members had no objection to this work being carried out. ENW to be notified accordingly.

Allerdale Borough Council – Review of Licensing Policy

Blennerhasset Resident - Pot holes -Blennerhasset

**2372 Blennerhasset Playing Field**

Further advice had been sought from the Charity Commission on the procedure to close the scheme. The Commission advised that they had reviewed the governing document and they are unable to remove the charity whilst it is still in possession of an asset. The land must be appropriately disposed of before the charity can be wound up.

It was agreed to go back to the Charity Commission to advise that the land is registered at the Land Registry in the name of the parish council and not the charity. It would also be reiterated to the Charity Commission that the financial information cannot be brought up to date as there are no committee members and the committee has not been in existence for several years.

With regard to the Play Area Cllr Powley reported that the cost to repair the rope bridge would be approximately £200. Members noted that parishioners would need to be consulted if the Play Area was to be closed on a permanent basis and the equipment removed. As no other issues were reported when the Play Area Inspection was carried out earlier in the year, it was therefore resolved that the repairs to the rope bridge should be carried out.

**2373 Footway Lighting**

Members noted the update received from the Borough Council regarding their intention to pass the footway lighting energy costs to Parish Councils from April 2021. The letter advised that the Borough Council had decided to postpone the imposition of energy costs onto parishes. One of the reasons for the decision was the prospect of local government reorganisation in the next couple of years. It would be prudent to await until the outcome of any re-organisation is known as all lights may come under one Authority. The Borough Council will also be looking at a planned programme of LED replacement to all of their lighting stock

**2374 Torpenhow Defibrillator**

The defibrillator had now been installed at the Village Hall, Torpenhow. The fund-raising committee are endeavouring to put signs up to direct strangers to it. The signs are to be affixed below the village signs on the Bothel, Mealsgate and Whitrigg approaches to the village. Members had no objection to the installation of the signage. Members noted the comments regarding the ongoing maintenance costs of the defibrillator at £150.00 per annum. It was Members’ view that the Committee should seek advice from the Community Heartbeat Trust regarding maintenance contracts.

**2375 Donation Request**

A request for financial assistance had been received from the Great North Air Ambulance Service. RESOLVED to grant a donation of £500.00.

**2376 Agenda items for the Next Meeting**

No new items added.

**2****377 Date of Next Meeting**

Bi-Monthly Meeting 13th January, 2021

The meeting closed at 8.27 pm

Signed……………………………….

Chairman

Date………………………………….