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

**Wednesday 13th January, 2021 at 7.30 pm**

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

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

**2378 Apologies for absence**

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

**2379 Minutes 11th November, 2020**

The minutes of the virtual meeting held on 11th November, 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

**2380 Declarations of Interest**

None.

**2381 Dispensation Requests**

None received.

**2382 Public Voice Slot**

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

Speeding, Torpenhow - A resident had raised concern at the speed of some vehicles entering the village from the A595/Bothel road. The resident had been advised that surveys were carried out and the speeds were found to be favourable, despite members feeling that the method of arriving at the data had been unrealistic. It was agreed to continue to monitor this.

Christmas Tree – Torpenhow Village Green - A resident had erected a Christmas tree on the village green partially securing the tree to the bus shelter. While it was nice to see the tree, it was suggested that if events are planned for the future, any individual or group wishing to erect anything on the village greens should first seek advice/authorisation from the parish council and should also ensure they have adequate insurance in place to cover any risks.

Planting of tree on Blennerhasset Village Green – A resident in Blennerhasset had requested permission from the parish council to plant a tree on the green to replace the willow that had been cut down. It was agreed the request would be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

**2383 Reports from Outside Bodies**

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

(b) Cumbria County Council – Cllr Bowness reported that an emergency road closure had been put in place for Blennerhasset Bridge. The bridge had been identified as having a low weight capacity with the bridge deck being unable to safely support vehicles exceeding 18 tonnes. The notice will be in force for 21 days but may be extended. A diversion route had been put in place. Cllr Bowe raised the point that with the bridge closed and a diversion in place there will be an increase in traffic using the Fitz road which is already in a poor state of repair. The Clerk was requested to raise this with Highways.

Cllr Bowness also reported that Cumbria County Council had agreed the implementation of the 50mph speed limit on the A595 through Bothel. Funding had been allocated for the improvements to the Greyhound/Torpenhow junction with a public consultation commencing on 13th January.

(c) Police Community Support Officer – Members noted that PCSO Peter Crome and Kerry Harris are the new PCSOs for the area. A new process had gone live on Cumbria Constabulary’s website ‘Road Safety Concerns Form’. This can be used for reporting requests/complaints and can be used for various issues such as speeding in the village, requests for speed limit reviews, anti-social driving/parking. Members of the public are encouraged to self-report using the online form RoadSafetyConcerns@cumbria.police.uk

**2384 Matters arising from the meeting on 11th November, 2020**

Parking Issues – Ellenside Bungalows, Blennerhasset - Homegroup had advised that they do not own the land outside the boundary of the properties. The grass and layby are not on their deeds and the land is not registered at Land Registry.

In relation to the path Homegroup advised they would contact their landscaping team and see if there is any maintenance that they could offer. The Clerk was requested to contact Homegroup for an update.

Trees - Village Green, Blennerhasset – This matter is ongoing. Cllr Powley reported that the contractor is still working away.

Fly Tipping Blennerhasset – The PCSO had suggested the parish council seek advice from the Borough Council who apparently have some covert cameras that could be deployed/placed to catch any potential fly tippers.

The precept demand had been submitted to the Borough Council

The direct debit for the data protection fee had been set with the Information Commissioners Office.

**2385 Highways**

1. Maintenance

Cllr Raine reported that the mud had been cleared and some pot holes repaired on the Torpenhow to Ireby road. With regard to the flooding the Highways Network Manager had advised that an engineer had visited the site and there appears to be a restriction in the flow. A bund had also been removed that is allowing water to come onto the highway. This will be addressed, in addition a vactor unit will be visiting week commencing 18 January to check the existing drainage and to also deal with the other drainage issues highlighted in and around the area.

Following the response received from Highways that there are no plans to upgrade the surface of Cross Lane, Torpenhow. It was suggested that Highways be asked whether they intend to maintain this road and make it safe for pedestrians and cyclists to use.

Cllr Raine reported that the road sweeper had returned to sweep the Bothel to Torpenhow road including the passing places.

As discussed earlier in the meeting the public consultation on the improvement works to the Greyhound/Torpenhow junction, Bothel runs from 13th January to 27th January. The consultation document will be circulated. Members were encouraged to complete the consultation form. Any comments to be forwarded from the Parish Council should be with the Clerk no later than 25th January.

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

Cllr Bowness left the meeting.

**2386** **Planning**

1. Applications received: None

1. Decisions: None

**2387 Finances**

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

Balances at 31st December, 2020

Cumberland Building Society £15,349.96

NatWest £ 276.20

Income Received:

30.11.20 COIF Charity £ 0.39

1. The following payments were approved for payment:

Clerk’s account Quarter 3 £349.00

HMRC PAYE Quarter 3 £ 87.20

Clerk’s expenses Quarter 3 £145.01

**2388 Correspondence**

Correspondence received since the last meeting:

Clerks and Councils Direct

CALC Circular December 2020/January 2021

Donation Request – Cockermouth Mechanics Band

Jehovah’s Witnesses publicity campaign

Torpenhow Parishioner – Torpenhow Street Lighting

Home Group – Ellen Bank Bungalows

Blennerhasset Parishioner – Blennerhasset Potholes

Cumbria Police – PSCO changes

CALC – Update on Local Government Reorganisation Cumbria

GNAAS – Letter of thanks for parish council’s donation

Allerdale Borough Council Budget Consultation 2021/22

CENSUS 2021

CALC - Three Tier Meeting January 2021

CALC - Letter from Robert Jenrick

Cumbria County Council – Public Consultation A595 Greyhound Inn/Torpenhow junction, Bothel

CALC – Agenda – Three Tier meeting 20 January to be held using zoom

Cumbria County Council – Emergency temporary weight restriction Blennerhasset Bridge

**2389 Blennerhasset Playing Field**

Cllr Powley reported that the repairs to the play area are in hand.

The Clerk reported that a response had not as yet been received from the Charity Commission.

Cllr Raine proposed that as there is no management committee in existence legal advice should be sought. The Clerk was requested to contact Beaty & Co., Solicitors for advice on (i) whether the parish council as custodian trustee can be removed from their connection with the field and the Charity and (ii) If this is not possible the parish council’s liabilities and responsibilities for the field should be established.

**2390 Pot Holes, Blennerhasset**

Cllr Powley reported that this matter is ongoing as the contractor was unable to carry out the work at the moment.

**2391 Village Hall, Blennerhasset**

Members were provided with an update from the outgoing Management Committee. A new Management Committee had been formed; details of the new committee members were provided. Three estimates had been obtained for the building work and sources of funding are currently being explored. This was noted by Members.

**2392 Grass Cutting Contract 2021-22 (Village Greens)**

Members noted that that contract for maintenance of the village greens is due for renewal. It was agreed that tenders would be invited for cutting the village greens in Torpenhow (to include the additional area near West End) and Blennerhasset, plus the strimming of the riverbank at Blennerhasset for two seasons. The contract would be advertised and contractors invited to tender. Tenders to be received no later than 9th March 2021. The tenders will be considered and a contractor appointed at the next meeting.

**2393 Footway Lighting, Torpenhow**

Members considered a proposal put forward from a resident in Torpenhow to turn the street lights off after a certain time each night or alternatively for one night on the weekend. Some benefits of this would be to reduce light pollution and energy costs. The Chairman reported that she had contacted the Borough Council for advice. The Borough Council advised that the lights are solar powered and come on at dusk and turn off at dawn and cannot be turned off as suggested in the proposal. The resident would be advised accordingly.

**2394 Donation Request**

A request for financial assistance had been received from the Cockermouth Mechanics Band. Following a discussion it was resolved not to support the request.

**2395 Agenda items for the Next Meeting**

Borough/County Council Services

**2****396 Date of Next Meeting**

Bi-Monthly Meeting 10th March, 2021

The meeting closed at 8.38 pm

Signed……………………………….

Chairman

Date………………………………….