**Draft Minutes of the Virtual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 7th April, 2021 at 7.30pm**

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

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

Two members of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1/21 Apologies**

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

**2/21 Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 8th May 2019 were accepted as a true record.

**3/21 Public Voice Slot**

Two members of the public were in attendance in relation to item 4(a) on the agenda (Blennerhasset Playing Field -Tree House). The correspondence received from members of the public in support of the tree house had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

The members of the public present addressed the meeting and advised that they wished to reiterate the comments in the correspondence and stated that the intentions of those involved with erecting the structure had been good and apologised for not obtaining the Parish Council’s prior permission. They also advised they wished to allay any fears and address any concerns the Parish Council may have.

The Chairman responded that it was not the Parish Council’s intention to discourage the children from using the field, but the Parish Council has health and safety concerns regarding the tree house and its use. The Parish Council’s insurance would not provide cover for any incidents relating to the unauthorised structure on the land and as the use of the structure cannot be supervised at all times day and night, the Parish Council would inevitably be held responsible as landowner if an accident occurred.

The Chairman explained that the Parish Council are only the Custodian Trustees of the land, their interest is only to ensure the land is used for the purposes intended when it was left to the villages of Baggrow and Blennerhasset. Unfortunately, the Management Committee of the field had recently folded, since then the Parish Council has been trying to form a new Management Committee made up from representatives from the two villages and those groups using the field.

Due to connectivity issues the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting was re-convened at 8.00pm

Main issues and points raised:

* Whether the structure needs planning permission
* Health and Safety concerns as the structure cannot be supervised at all times
* The Parish Council’s insurance would not provide cover for an unauthorised structure on the land
* Any individual or group using the field is required to have their own public liability insurance in place.

**4/21 Blennerhasset Playing Field**

Members considered the points raised in the Public Voice Slot

1. Tree House

RESOLVED that (a) the members of the public present agreed to seek clarification regarding planning permission, public liability insurance and necessary signage (b) In the interim the area would be taped off and the ladders removed. The tree house would not be used unsupervised. The members of the public in attendance agreed to accept full liability and responsibility for any incidents that occur and if anyone is injured using the structure.

Members agreed to consider the matter further once the points raised in (a) have been addressed.

1. Management of the Field – The members of the public in attendance agreed to enquire in the village if there was anyone interested in forming a Committee to manage the field.

**5/21 DATE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

Notification had been received that the government had considered the case for extending legislation on the holding of virtual meetings and had concluded that it is not possible to bring forward emergency legislation on this issue at this time. Face to face meetings would therefore have to resume from 7th May, 2021.

RESOLVED that the Annual Meeting of the Council should be brought forward to Wednesday 5th May at 7.00pm and will be held virtually using telephone conferencing.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Signed……………………………….

Chairman

Date………………………………….