**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held virtually**

**on Wednesday 5th May, 2021 at 7.00pm**

Present: Cllrs. J. Bowe, M. Giddings, A. Little, W. Powley (joined the meeting at 7.30pm) and A. Raine.

**2418 Election of Chair for Council Year 2021/22**

Nominations were invited for the election of Chair for council year 2021/22. Cllr Raine proposed that Cllr. Little be re-elected. Cllr. Little advised she was not willing to take on the Chairmanship for the full year and suggested that a Chair is elected at each meeting. RESOLVED that Cllr Little chair tonight’s meeting.

**2419 Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

A declaration of acceptance of office will be signed

**2420 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Grainger and Bowness, Allerdale and County Councillors.

**2421 Minutes 10th March, 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th March, 2021 were accepted as a true record.

**2422 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

**2423 Dispensation Requests**

None received.

**2424 Public Voice Slot**

No parishioners had requested to join the meeting.

Two representations had been received on the public consultation A595 Bothel Strategic Improvements relating to the Cockbridge/Torpenhow junction and the Blennerhasset junction.

**2425 Reports from Outside Bodies**

(a) Allerdale Borough Council – Cllr Grainger was not present at the meeting.

(b) Cumbria County Council – Cllr Bowness was not present at the meeting.

(c) Police Community Support Officer – The newsletter for the Wigton area had been received.

**2426 Matters Arising from the Meeting 10 March 2021**

Min ref. 2413 – Cllrs Bowe and Giddings had attended a site meeting in Blennerhasset to discuss the locations for the two replacement trees. Following the site meeting the parishioner had taken advice from the Borough Council who advised that subject to the Parish Council’s agreement additional trees could be planted. Members reiterated that only two trees should be planted in the locations agreed at the last meeting, a wild cherry would replace the willow and an oak would replace the silver birch. It was suggested that an estimate should be sought to remove the stumps before the replacement trees are planted. Cllr Powley agreed to arrange for an estimate to remove the stumps and a price for the replacement trees. Cllr Giddings agreed to provide a plan of the village green identifying the locations and species of the two trees to be planted. A copy of the plan would be sent to the parishioner and a copy displayed on the parish noticeboard. Members suggested the school might like to be involved in the planting of the trees.

**2427 Highways**

1. Maintenance – Since the last meeting some patching work had been carried out on the Blennerhasset to Fitz road. Cllr Bowe reported that she had contacted Cllr Little at the County Council regarding the standard of the work. As yet this has not been addressed.

Repairs had not been carried out on the Torpenhow to Cockbridge road.

RESOLVED to write to the MP requesting that he visit the parish to assess the condition of the roads; enquiries to be made at CCC when the works are likely to be carried out, particularly as the County Council’s budget for highways had been cut this year.

It was also proposed that Highways be asked when Cross Lane had been designated as an unsurfaced road.

1. Speed Monitoring – Speeding issues in Blennerhasset were discussed. An accident involving a speeding vehicle had occurred recently. It was agreed this should be brought to the County Council’s attention.

(c) A595 Bothel Strategic Improvements Public Consultation – The public consultation is now open and runs until 24th May. The concerns raised by parishioners had been noted. The following observations were made in response to the consultation

The Torpenhow junction at Cockbridge should be repositioned further along the A595 towards Bothel to improve visibility pulling out of the junction.

A right lane turning into Torpenhow should also be included to improve the flow of traffic.

The 50mph speed limit should be extended beyond the Blennerhasset junction ideally as far as Mealsgate.

The Torpenhow junction opposite the Greyhound is not suitable for pedestrians, part of the old road should be surfaced for pedestrians and cyclists

Blennerhasset Junction – Improvements should be included to alleviate the flooding issues at this junction.

**2428** **Planning**

1. Applications received:

CAT/2021/0008 – Tree next to house down lane, Torpenhow Village

Trees marked T1 Silver birch – Fell - excessive shading to next doors garden, T2 Willow – Fell – Unstable high root plate and excessive shading to next door garden T3 – Thorn – Fell.

FUL/2021/0087 – Whitehead Brow, Mealsgate

Proposed livestock building

FUL/2021/0103 – Whitehead Brow, Mealsgate

Proposed roof and concrete panel walls over existing earth banked silage pit

1. Decisions: None

**2429 Finances**

1. The financial statement at 31st March, 2021 had been circulated with the agenda.

Balances at 31st March, 2021

Nat West £ 276.20

Cumberland Building Society £14,178.90

£ 14,455.10

Unpresented cheques £ 400.00

Net Balance £14,055.10

Income Received:

Allerdale Borough Council – Half Yearly Precept £5,325.00

1. The following payments were approved for payment:

CALC – Annual Subscription £ 154.68

Internal Auditor £ 90.00

Blennerhasset & Baggrow Cricket Club – Grass Cutting 2020 £1400.00

**2430 Annual Audit**

The Clerk reported that the internal audit had been carried out with no issues identified concerning the accounts. One matter was highlighted by the Internal Auditor relating to the Clerk’s hours. This will be included on the agenda for the July meeting.

1. Annual Governance Statement – Members considered the Annual Governance Statement and agreed that arrangements are in place for effective financial management and the accounting statements are prepared in accordance with Accounts and Audit Regulations. RESOLVED that the Chairman and Clerk be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement.
2. Accounting Statement 2020/21 – Members agreed that the Accounting Statement in the annual return fairly represents the financial position of the parish council. RESOLVED that the Chairman be authorised to sign the annual return.
3. Certificate of Exemption - Members resolved that the Certificate of Exemption should be signed by the Chairman and Clerk certifying that the Parish Council is exempt from a limited assurance review and during the financial year 2020/21 the gross income for the year or gross annual expenditure for the year did not exceed £25,000.
4. Period of Exercise of Public Rights – Members noted that the period for the exercise of public rights will commence on 14th June and will end on 23rd July. A notice will be displayed on the parish notice boards notifying electors of their rights to inspect the accounts.

(v) Publication on website – The Clerk reported the requisite documents will be added to the parish council’s website

**2431 Correspondence**

Correspondence received since the last meeting:

Allerdale Borough Council - Local Government Reorganisation in Cumbria Consultation

Cumbria County Council - A595 Bothel Strategic Improvement - Public Consultation

CALC - Remote meetings update

CALC Follow up Information from the Local Government Reorganisation Event 18 March

Cumbria County Council: Latest News from Cumbria County Council - Friday 16 April 2021 – Includes the public consultation on the A595

Cumbria Police - April 2021 - Maryport, Aspatria, Silloth and Wigton

Duke of Edinburgh - Operation Forth Bridge & books of condolence

Cumbria County Council Highways Feedback Survey Results and Report

CALC - DCMS Rural Broadband Consultation

CALC - NALC Response to Government Consultation on LGR

CALC - Allerdale District Three Tier Meeting 25th May 2021

CALC - High Court Judgement on Virtual Meetings

**2432 Blennerhasset Playing Field**

1. Tree House

Following the meeting on 7th April, 2021 correspondence had been received advising that steps had been taken to address the concerns raised by the parish council. As yet the parish council had not received evidence that insurance is in place to cover damage/injuries to anyone using the structure. Members also noted that the area had not been taped off and was still in use. Members agreed that the structure is not safe and should be removed.

1. Management of the Field

Cllr Bowe reported that a meeting had been held in the Blennerhasset on 28th April to gauge if there is sufficient interest in the villages (Baggrow and Blennerhasset) to form a committee to manage the field. The Parish Council will await to be advised if a committee has been formed.

1. Play Area Inspection

The Borough Council had contacted the Parish Council regarding the requirements for the inspection of the Play Area. RESOLVED that an accompanied inspection should be carried out this year. Cllr Powley agreed to accompany the Inspector. It was suggested that enquiries be made whether the Inspector could also inspect the tree house whilst carrying out the inspection of the Play Area.

**2433 Pot Holes, Blennerhasset**

Further correspondence had been received regarding the pot holes on the unadopted road adjacent to the village green suggesting that the County Council be requested to repair this area. RESOLVED that the parishioner be advised that it is not Cumbria County Council’s responsibility to maintain this unadopted private road. Cllr. Powley reported that he hoped some progress would be made before the next meeting.

**2434 Village Hall, Blennerhasset**

The Management Committee had sent thanks to the parish council for the annual grant towards the running costs of the Village Hall. An update on the progress of the building works was also provided. Fund raising is continuing.

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**2435 Village Greens**

Correspondence had been received from a potential purchaser of a property adjacent to the village green at West End Torpenhow regarding maintenance of the area. RESOLVED that a response be sent advising that the Parish Council cut the grass and it is the residents’ responsibility to maintain the paths.

**2436 Agenda items for the Next Meeting**

Trees on the Village Green, Blennerhasset

Review of Clerk’s Contract

**2437** **Date of Next Meeting**

As the High Court application on the holding of virtual meetings had been dismissed parish councils must now return to face-to-face meetings and prepare accordingly.

The next meeting will be held at Torpenhow Village Hall on 14th July, 2021 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.12 pm

Signed……………………………….

Chairman

Date………………………………….