**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at Torpenhow Village Hall**

**on Wednesday 14th July, 2021 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs. J. Bowe, M. Giddings, A. Little and A. Raine.

Also Present: A Bowness, Cumbria County Councillor and M. Grainger, Allerdale Borough Councillor

**2446 Apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr W. Powley.

**2447 Minutes 5th May and 10th June 2021**

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 5th May 2021 and the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on 10th June 2021 were accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

**2448 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

**2449 Dispensation Requests**

None received.

**2450 Public Voice Slot**

No members of the public were present. The following matters were raised.

Ellenbank Bungalows – A resident had again raised concern regarding the condition of the path leading to the bungalows. This had been forwarded to Home Housing. Home Housing advised this had been passed on to their legal team to ascertain whether they have any records of where responsibility lies. Home Housing also advised that if they are to start maintaining the path the residents may incur a service charge. Confirmation from Home Housing is still awaited

Trees on the Village Green, Blennerhasset – A resident in Blennerhasset had queried why the bush in front of her property on the village green had been cut down. The resident had been advised that a tree is to be planted at this location (as per min ref 2426).

Boundary Commission Review – A map displaying the proposals for the north west is available to view on the Boundary Commission for England’s website. Any comments are to be with the Boundary Commission by 2nd August.

Village Map, Torpenhow – The condition of the village map at Torpenhow had been raised by a Torpenhow resident

**2451 Reports from Outside Bodies**

(a) Allerdale Borough Council – Cllr Grainger reported that the Borough Council is currently undergoing a restructure and refurbishments are being carried out at Allerdale House in Workington.

(b) Cumbria County Council – Cllr Bowness reported on the new County Council’s HIMS ‘One Front Door’ approach for Parish Councillors. The system is now live on the County Council’s website. As part of the Highways Information Asset Management Project the process has been reviewed to improve the efficiency of the service

(c) Police Community Support Officer – No matters were reported.

**2452 Matters Arising from the Meeting 5th May and 10th June**

Min Ref: 2434 – Village Hall, Blennerhasset – Cllr Bowe reported that work has started on the hall but it is still not available for bookings.

Min Ref: 2435 – Village Green, West End, Torpenhow – The enquirer had advised the property sale had fallen through.

**2453 Highways**

1. Maintenance – Cllrs Bowe, Giddings and Raine had agreed to meet with the MP Mark Jenkinson on 16th July to discuss the highway issues in the parish.

Cockbridge – Torpenhow road - Patching work had been carried out on the Cockbridge to Torpenhow road. Cllr Bowness was asked to enquire if this road is on the list for surface dressing.

Road Closed Signs at Kirkland Layby - Cllr Bowness was asked to make enquiries regarding the status of the layby at Kirkland. Highways had previously advised that the layby is not their responsibility but have now placed road closed signs at the two entrances.

50mph Speed Limit on the A595 - Cllr Bowness advised that the 50mph sign had not as yet been installed on the A595 as the proposed location conflicts with the location of the SID already sited on the A595. Members noted that 50mph signs have been sited on the A591 and at the junction opposite the Greyhound. Cllr Bowness advised that the speed limit is not enforceable at the moment.

A report was received of overgrown ivy obstructing the pavement at Blennerhasset. Highways would be notified and requested to contact the property owner.

A595 Bothel Strategic Improvements – The Chairman reported that she had been in contact with Geoff Holden of Capita regarding the Cockbridge/Torpenhow junction. It was confirmed that a review is in process regarding this junction and the road may have to be realigned at Low Woodnook. A potential issue had been raised with Capita regarding noise impact of the scheme for residents of Torpenhow. Capita had advised that they do not anticipate any changes in noise levels, this will be revisited once the scheme realignment is finalised.

North Allerdale Traffic Regulation Order – Proposal 19 – Blennerhasset Bridge – Cumbria County Council had advised that a temporary order for the weight limit to be reduced to 18T from 26T had been brought in because of safety concerns surrounding the bridge. The order now needs to be made permanent. The Parish Council had raised concerns in relation to the detour the farming community who have land on either side of the bridge will have to take. It was also raised that the refuse lorry may potentially be over 18T. Members resolved to oppose the order and notify Cumbria County Council accordingly.

1. Speed Monitoring – The latest incidents of speeding at Blennerhasset had been raised with the Police. The Police advised that there was no evidence to suggest that the accidents referred to were speed related. The issues would be raised again with the CRASH team and traffic counts would be undertaken in due course to get a picture of current speeds.

**2454** **Planning**

1. Applications received:

FUL/2021/0173 – Whitehead Brow, Mealsgate

Roof over existing midden No objections

LBC/2021/0028 – Pear Tree House, Blennerhasset

Listed Building consent for the installation of an electrical vehicle charging point to the boundary wall

Members objected to the suggested location of the charging point and felt that as the property is a listed building in the Conservation Area the charging point should be sited on the side of the garage or inside the garage.

1. Decisions: None

**2455 Finances**

1. The financial statement at 30th June 2021 had been circulated with the agenda.

Balances at 30th June, 2021

Nat West £ 276.20

Cumberland Building Society £17,659.62

Income Received:

28.5.21 – COIF Charity £ 0.40

23.6.21 – Electricity North West – Wayleave £78.88

1. The following payments were approved for payment:

Torpenhow Village Hall – Room Hire 10th June £ 8.00

Clerk’s account Quarter 1 £349.00

HMRC PAYE Quarter 1 £ 87.20

Clerk’s expenses Quarter 1 £145.80

B. Powley – Refund Rope for Play Area £161.89

St. Michael’s Church Torpenhow – Donation £250.00

**2456 Correspondence**

Correspondence received since the last meeting:

CALC - Allerdale Joint Three Tier Meeting May 25th

CALC - Allerdale GDF Working Group

CALC - April/May Edition CALC Newsletter

CALC - DCMS Rural Broadband Consultation

Cumbria CC - A595 Bothel Strategic Improvement Torpenhow side road junction (Cock Bridge end)

CALC - Highways Information Asset Management System Launch Briefing for Parish Councillors 24th June 7pm

CALC - COVID-19: Important Public Health Update

Cumbria CC - North Allerdale Traffic Regulation Order – Blennerhasset Bridge

CALC - The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons - 2nd June 2022

CALC - ACT News Update

CALC - New T NL Funding Programme

BBC Radio Cumbria survey - how many loos in Cumbria

CALC - Cumbria in Bloom May Newsletter

Home Housing - Ellen Bank parking

CALC - Minutes of a three-tier meeting held on the 25th May 2021

CALC - Friends of the Lake District Landscape Grant Fund

CALC - New Highway Customer System

**2457 Blennerhasset Playing Field**

1. Tree House

Following the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on 10th June a contractor had been instructed to remove the tree house. This had been carried out on 25th June.

1. Management of the Field

It was reported that a query had been put on Facebook whether there was any interest in forming a management committee. Members are not aware of anyone registering an interest. It was suggested that the Village Hall Management Committee at Blennerhasset be approached to enquire if they would be willing to take on the management of the field.

1. Play Area Inspection

The Play Area inspection had been carried out. The Inspection report was available at the meeting. The High Risks identified were discussed, these included (i) appropriate risk assessments to be carried out during the Covid 19 pandemic, (ii) signage with emergency contact details and information for maintenance issues be provided, (iii) a number of molehills may present unforeseen hazards for users, (iv) algae or moss on the surface of some equipment, (v) a tree house had been built by a parish member which presented a significant hazard and should be removed. It was also noted that there is evidence of rot on parts of the timber on some of the structures. It was recommended that all affected timbers be replaced.

It was suggested that a notice board could be installed on the side of the pavilion to display all relevant information. Cllr Bowe agreed to make enquiries whether the Cricket Club would agree to this. It was also agreed that the page in the inspection report relating to the tree house be displayed on the notice board at Blennerhasset.

**2458 Pot Holes, Blennerhasset**

The temporary repairs to the pot holes in front of the village green at Blennerhasset had been carried out. A message of thanks had been received from one of the residents affected by the portholes thanking the parish council, particular Cllr Powley for arranging and assisting with the repairs. Members resolved that a letter should be sent to the residents advising that this work had been carried out by the Parish Council as a gesture of goodwill as the area is in front of the village green but it is now the resident’s responsibility to maintain this unadopted private road.

**2459 Trees on Blennerhasset Village Green**

The work on the trees on the village green had been carried out. Replacement trees will be planted as soon as practicable. Members noted that three swings had been erected on the trees on the Green. Members resolved to consult the byelaws relating to the village green and consult the PCSO to enquire if they can provide any assistance. It was also agreed to contact the insurers to ascertain the parish council’s liabilities in relation to the unauthorised swings.

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**2460 Village Map, Torpenhow**

Approximate costings for a lectern style frame for the village map were discussed. RESOLVED that the Clerk would make further enquiries at Image Signmakers for a quotation for the frame, to include the costs for installation on posts up to a maximum budget of £1000.

It was raised that the notice board at Torpenhow needs a coat of varnish. It was suggested that the contractor employed to paint the bus shelters be asked if she is able to undertake this work.

**2461 Donation Request – St. Michael’s Church, Torpenhow**

A request for financial support towards the maintenance of the churchyard had been received from St. Michael’s Church Torpenhow. RESOLVED that £250.00 should be granted.

**2462 Closure of Keswick Leisure Pool**

The Borough Council’s recent decision to close the Leisure Pool at Keswick was discussed. RESOLVED that the Parish Council should support the petition and send a letter of support against the closure.

**2463 Agenda items for the Next Meeting**

No additional items to be added to the agenda.

**2464** **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at Torpenhow Village Hall on 8th September, 2021 at 7.30pm

Under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following item.

**2465 Review of Clerk’s Contract**

The internal auditor had highlighted that the Clerk’s monthly hours of 13 per month appeared to be low in comparison with other parishes of similar size and recommended that the Clerk’s contract be reviewed and the hours increased in line with the guidance from the Local Society of Local Clerks to 16 per month.

RESOLVED that the Clerk’s hours be increased to 16 per month.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Signed……………………………….

Chairman

Date………………………………….