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

**on Wednesday 8th September, 2021 at 7.30pm**

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

**2466 Apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr. J. Bowe. The reason for absence was noted and accepted.

**2467 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2021 were accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

**2468 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

**2469 Dispensation Requests**

None received.

**2470 Public Voice Slot**

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

Street Lights – Two street lights are out in Blennerhasset, one near the school and one opposite Mountain View. The Clerk agreed to report this to the Borough Council.

Dog Fouling – The grass cutting contractor had raised the issue of dog fouling on the village greens with Cllr Bowe. It was suggested that the Street Scene Officer be requested to visit the parish. An article would be included in the Binsey Link advising residents of the visit and reminding dog owners that it is an offence not to clean up after a dog.

**2471 Reports from Outside Bodies**

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

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

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

**2472 Matters Arising from the Meeting 14th July 2021**

Cllr Powley agreed to contact the painter/decorator regarding varnishing the notice board at Torpenhow.

**2473 Highways**

1. Maintenance – Cllrs Bowe, Giddings and Raine had met with the MP to discuss the highway maintenance issues in the parish. A follow up letter had been received from the MP enclosing a letter from Cumbria County Council addressing the issues raised. Cllr Raine agreed to draft a response to the MP’s/Cumbria County Council’s letter for members approval before being sent to the MP.

Cllr Bowness had confirmed that the Torpenhow road is not on the list for surface dressing this year.

Highways had contacted the property owner regarding the overgrown ivy obstructing the pavement at Blennerhasset.

The 50mph sped limit on the A595 at Bothel had now been implemented.

30mph speed limit signs in Blennerhasset had been defaced by anti-vaxxers. These had been cleaned but were now faded. The Clerk was requested to report this to Highways.

The Torpenhow to Ireby road is still flooding – This would also be raised in the letter to Cumbria County Council/MP.

1. Speed Monitoring – The Collision Reduction Officer at Cumbria Police had advised that the incidents of speeding at Blennerhasset had been discussed again at CRASH. It had been decided that there would be no further investigation at this time. The two accidents were classed as damage only and could not necessarily be attributed to speed.

Previous traffic counts had shown good compliance with the speed limit at the location and does not warrant a safety camera van site or enforcement by patrols at this time.

1. A595 Improvements – The Chairman provided an update from Capita. Once the design stage for the realignment work at Low Wood Nook is finalised a meeting will be arranged with the Parish Council and Capita to discuss the new plans. It is anticipated a planning application will be submitted in February next year.

**2474** **Planning**

1. Applications received: None
2. Decisions:

FUL/2021/0173 – Whitehead Brow, Mealsgate

Roof over existing midden GRANTED

LBC/2021/0028 – Pear Tree House, Blennerhasset

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

GRANTED

**2475 Annual Insurance**

The renewal documentation from BHIB Limited had been received. As there was no increase in premium from the previous year it was RESOLVED to renew the policy with BHIB.

**2476 Finances**

1. The financial statement had been circulated with the agenda.

Balances at 31st August, 2021

Nat West £ 276.20

Cumberland Building Society £16,106.81

1. The following payments were approved for payment:

Allerdale Borough Council – Play Area Inspection £109.20

J.G. Mumberson – Repairs to Pot Holes - Blennerhasset £321.00

Clerk’s account Quarter 2 £429.57

HMRC PAYE Quarter 2 £107.40

Clerk’s expenses Quarter 2 £155.81

Torpenhow Village Hall – Room Hire 14th July £ 16.00

BHIB Ltd - Annual Insurance £347.51

Colin Stevens Forestry Ltd.- Removal of tree house/tree work £600.00

Donation granted to Citizens Advice Allerdale £ 50.00

**2477 Correspondence**

Correspondence received since the last meeting:

Allerdale Borough Council - Review of Statement of Gambling Policy – Consultation

CALC - Parish Survey results - Recent HMLR Parish Land Ownership Survey – HMLR had advised that all publicly owned land should be registered at the Land Registry by 2025. The Clerk was requested to make some initial enquiries on what would be involved/costings.

CALC - Corporate Message - Pre-action protocol letter sent to the Secretary of State following the decision to create two new unitary councils for Cumbria

CALC - Local Government Reorganisation update

CALC Newsletter June July 2021

CALC - Geological Disposal Facility Allerdale Working Group Press Release

Resignation Internal Auditor – Members agreed to appoint Mr. Trevor Gear following the resignation of the current internal auditor.

Donation Request Citizens Advice Allerdale

CALC - Parish Council Apologies - Members noted the briefing sent by CALC relating to the submission and acceptance of apologies for absence

Cumbria CC – Request to site HGV sign at Torpenhow

**2478 Blennerhasset Playing Field**

1. Management of the Field

Further to minute reference 2457 the Village Hall Management Committee had been approached to enquire if they would be willing to take on the management of the field. The Management Committee had requested some additional information. A decision is still awaited.

Cllr Giddings reported that the fence in the playing field had been damaged. Cllr Giddings agreed to carry out some repairs. Cllr Giddings also reported that the wire across the river had been taken down again and left for collection.

1. Play Area – To address the issues raised in the inspection report

A quotation had been received from Strawberry Cottage Landscapes for maintenance of the Play Area at £75.00 for the initial tidying and then £50.00 to the end of this season. Next year would be £200.00 for the season. Members RESOLVED to accept the quotation.

Signage – The Clerk was requested to obtain prices for two noticeboards, one to be sited at the Play Area and one to replace the notice board on the bus shelter at Blennerhasset.

**2479 Trees on Blennerhasset Village Green**

Further to minute reference 2459 advice from the insurers confirmed that the parish council could potentially be held responsible if an incident was to occur relating to the unauthorised swings on the trees. The PCSO had advised that they are unable to assist and the parish council should contact the Borough Council in relation to the byelaws on the green. RESOLVED to seek advice from the Borough Council as to enforcing the byelaws and if there is any action the parish council can take to deter parish members from erecting swings on the trees. An article would be included in Binsey Link advising residents that the swings are unauthorised and the parish council cannot be held responsible if any incidents occur.

Cllr Raine reported that BT had left some large stones on the village green opposite the Church at Torpenhow following completion of some excavation work to repair at leak. The Clerk was requested to contact BT requesting they remove these.

**2480 Ellenbank Bungalows**

A complaint had been received from one of the residents of the bungalows regarding the dangerous condition of the path. The complainant threatened to take legal action if any accidents occurred resulting from this. Home Group had advised that their grounds maintenance are looking at carrying out a permanent repair. The other option would be for the Parish Council to have the path taken up and restore the area back to grass. It was suggested that a site visit with Home Group would be beneficial to try to resolve the issues at this location.

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**2481 Village Map, Torpenhow**

A quotation had been received from Image Signmakers at a cost £1100 + VAT to include installation. No other quotations had been received. RESOLVED to accept the quotation. The Clerk would instruct the contractor and agree details. The display board would need to be opening, powder coated and finished in the colour green. A site meeting would be arranged once the display board is ready to be installed.

**2482 Donation Request – Citizens Advice Allerdale**

A request for financial assistance had been received from Citizens Advice Allerdale. RESOLVED to grant a donation of £50.00.

**2483 Agenda items for the Next Meeting**

Budget/Setting the Precept for 2022-23

Tenders for grass cutting at Blennerhasset Playing Field

**2484** **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at Torpenhow Village Hall on 10th November 2021 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Signed……………………………….

Chairman

Date………………………………….