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

**on Wednesday 10th November, 2021 at 7.30pm**

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

Three members of the public (for part of the meeting)

**2485 Apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr. M. Giddings. The reason for absence was noted and accepted. An apology for absence was also received from Cllr. M. Grainger, Allerdale Borough Councillor.

**2486 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th September, 2021 were accepted as a true record.

**2487 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

**2488 Dispensation Requests**

None received.

**2489 Public Voice Slot**

Three residents from Blennerhasset were in attendance and raised the matter of the swings on the village green. Several letters of support for the swings had also been received and circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

The parish members were advised that it was not possible to have swings or a play area sited on the village green as the area, for safety reasons, would have to been fenced in and bylaws prevent a village green from being fenced in. Other locations were discussed and one was identified near to the present play area. The members of the public were advised if they could gather sufficient interest in the village to form a properly constituted committee with a chair, secretary and treasurer to enable the committee to apply for grants, the parish council would further consider their proposals. The parish members agreed to report back to the parish council at the next meeting. The parish members also agreed to remove the unauthorised swings in place at the moment.

A request had been received from a resident in Blennerhasset to lay protective webbed matting across part of the village green from the road to their property to protect the green. The proposals had been discussed at a site meeting. Members agreed to the resident’s request.

**2490 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.

**2491 Matters Arising from the Meeting 8th September 2021**

Cumbria Highways had advised that the two street lights reported at the last meeting had been fixed. Cllr Raine informed Members that he had reported two street lights out at Torpenhow. The Highways Information Asset Management System had stated that the report should be directed to the Borough Council and there appears to be some confusion as to who is responsible for which lights.

North Allerdale Traffic Regulation Order – Proposal 19 – Blennerhasset Bridge – The Traffic Management Officer at Cumbria County Council had advised that due to the information provided in the responses and further investigation it had been agreed by the local committee to abandon the proposal and the 26-tonne limit would carry on.

The Information Commissioners Office had confirmed the data protection certificate had been renewed, payment being made by direct debit.

**2492 Highways**

1. Maintenance

An acknowledgement had been received from the MP in response to the parish council’s letter regarding the ongoing concerns in relation to the upkeep of the roads in the Parish. The MP had written to Cumbria County Council to raise the parish council’s concerns; the MP will update the parish council once a response is received.

A report had been submitted on the HIAMS regarding the Cockbridge to Torpenhow road which had been marked up for further repair. It was also understood that the drains are to be kerbed. An Officer had visited the site and located two buried gully grates and frames. The Officer had also confirmed that the flooding issue will be addressed and the carriageway will be sided out before the surface dressing works are carried out. It was suggested that a site meeting with a Highways Officer should be arranged before the works are carried out in the new year.

Cllr Bowe reported that there had been flooding on the A595 to Blennerhasset road.

An urgent road closure had been received for the U2103 Ireby to Torpenhow road. The notice will be in effect for 5 days from 11th November to enable Morrison Telecom Utilities to carry out urgent removal and reinstallation of BT poles. Cllr Raine queried why the Parish Council are not always advised of all road closures. The Clerk was requested to make enquiries.

1. Speed Monitoring – Nothing to report.

**2493** **Planning**

1. Applications received:

 HOU/2021/0204 – Barn End, Midtown Farm, Torpenhow

 Erection of detached garage

1. Decisions:

HOU/2021/0204 – Barn End, Midtown Farm, Torpenhow

Erection of detached garage GRANTED

**2494 Finances**

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

Balances at 31st October, 2021

Nat West £ 276.20

Cumberland Building Society £19,725.52

Income Received

Allerdale Borough Council – Half Yearly Precept £5,325.00

1. The following payments were approved for payment:

Torpenhow Village Hall – Room Hire 8.9.21 £ 12.00

 Image Signmakers – Torpenhow Village Map £1320.00

 Strawberry Cottage Landscapes – Grass cutting and

 strimming the riverbank £2855.00

 Donation granted to Great North Air Ambulance Service £ 500.00

**2495 Budget 2022-23**

A draft budget for 2022-23 had been circulated with the agenda. The usual income and expenditure items were discussed. It was therefore RESOLVED to keep the precept at £10,650.

**2496 Correspondence**

Correspondence received since the last meeting:

CALC - Geological Disposal Facility Process in Allerdale

CALC Annual General Meeting Saturday 16th October 2021

CALC - Geological Disposal Facility Briefing

Citizens Advice Allerdale -Thank you for donation

Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan - Public Consultation

Allerdale BC - Allerdale Leisure Future - Stakeholders Survey

CALC - Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Newsletter

CALC - The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

CALC - Apologies at Meetings

CALC - Local Government Reorganisation - Judicial Review update

CALC - arrangements in case of flooding

CALC - Policy Consultation Briefing - Environmental Permitting Regulations – For information

CALC AGM - Saturday 16th October – Presentations from the meeting

**2497 Blennerhasset Playing Field**

1. Management of the Field – Members agreed to defer any further discussion until the next meeting.
2. Play Area – This matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

(c) Grass Cutting Contract 2022 – The contract for the grass cutting at the playing field is due to be renewed for the 2022 season. An invitation to tender would be advertised and tenders received would be considered at the next meeting.

**2498 Trees on Blennerhasset Village Green**

It had been agreed earlier in the meeting that the unauthorised swings would be removed.

Cllr Powley reported that he had acquired two trees for planting on the village green. Cllr Bowe reported she intended to visit the school the next day to enquire if the children would like to be involved in the planting.

**2499 Ellen Bank Bungalows**

Following the last meeting Cllrs Bowe and Powley had attended a site meeting with Home Group. Home Group had subsequently advised that their surveyor had confirmed that although the paths may have been installed by Home Group, they have never been maintained by them. Home Group had also advised that if they were to start maintaining the paths on a regular basis, they would have to start charging the residents a maintenance charge. At the site meeting the surveyor had found that the paths to the properties may need some maintenance when the grass is cut but they are not in need of repair. The surveyor had also identified that the path running across the front of the gates of the properties may be a hazard as it is uneven. Home Group had agreed to level the path but will not be responsible for the general upkeep.

The Clerk was requested to ask Home Group for a timescale when repairs will be carried out as following receipt of correspondence from one of the tenants the Parish Council consider this to be urgent.

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**2500 Village Map, Torpenhow**

The village map had been installed near the bus shelter on the village green. An invoice had been presented for payment. Cllr Raine raised that the map needs up-dated consequent to it being moved. There may also be additional properties to be included on the map. Cllr Raine agreed to make enquiries in the village.

**2501 Christmas Lights**

A request to put a few strings of battery-powered lights on the hornbeam tree on the village green next to the junction in Torpenhow was considered. Members were in agreement subject to regular safety checks being undertaken to ensure the lights are safely tied on.

**2502 Donation Request – Great North Air Ambulance**

A request for financial assistance had been received from Great North Air Ambulance Service. RESOLVED to grant a donation of £500.00.

**2503 Agenda items for the Next Meeting**

No additional items added.

**2504** **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at Blennerhasset Village Hall on 12th January 2022 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm

Signed……………………………….

Chairman

Date………………………………….