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

**on Wednesday 12th January, 2022 at 7.30pm**

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

Also present: Three parish members and A. Lester representing Baggrow & Blennerhasset Cricket Club.

As Cllr Little had submitted apologies it was RESOLVED that Cllr Raine would chair tonight’s meeting.

**2505 Apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr. A. Little. The reason for absence was noted and accepted. An apology for absence was also received from Cllr. M. Grainger, Allerdale Borough Councillor and Cllr. A. Bowness, Cumbria County Councillor.

**2506 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th November, 2021 were accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chair. The minutes from the September meeting were also signed.

**2507 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

**2508 Dispensation Requests**

None received.

**2509 Public Voice Slot**

Play Area, Blennerhasset – An update was provided. The parish members present at the last meeting are currently looking at what is required and what can be achieved at the play area. At the moment there are problems opening a community bank account as most banks are unwilling to take on accounts of this type at the present time. Enquiries are being made whether the account held by the previous Playing Field Committee was ever closed. An update will be provided at the next parish council meeting in March.

Playing Field, Blennerhasset – Arthur Lester representing Baggrow and Blennerhasset Cricket Club was in attendance and provided Members with information as to what the Cricket Club had planned for this season. Mr. Lester also offered to answer any queries in relation to the tender submitted for the grass cutting of the field.

Members asked to be provided with a copy of the Cricket Club’s public liability insurance and if a copy of the fixture list could be sent to the Clerk to be displayed on the notice board at Blennerhasset. Members also suggested that the Cricket Club should liaise with the school regarding the use of the field.

Street Light, Blennerhasset – Notification had been received from the Borough Council that a resident is carrying out extension works to their property and needs to disconnect a street light. The disconnection and reconnection, including relocating the light would incur a charge to the resident. The Parish Council was asked whether the street light was still required. As a similar request had been received in the past for this location it was agreed that the parish council’s decision had not changed and the street light should remain. The Borough Council had been notified accordingly.

**2510 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.

**2511 Matters arising from the Meeting 10th November 2021**

Ellen Bank Bungalows (Min. Ref 2499) - A response had been received from Home Group to advise that a job had been raised and the works will be carried out whilst number 3 is unoccupied. Home Group also advised that the issues were mainly outside number 3 and no trip hazards had been identified outside the other properties. If there are any trip hazards due to the general upkeep of the paths through the grass this would not be maintained by Home Group.

Flooding A595 to Blennerhasset road (Min Ref 2492) – Cllr Bowe reported that Highways had carried out some work in this area.

Blennerhasset Bridge (Min Ref 2491) – Despite the County Council advising that the proposal to reduce the weight limit had been abandoned and the 26 tonne limit would carry on, the 18 tonne signs had not been replaced.

Trees on Blennerhasset Village Green (Min Ref 2498) – Cllrs Powley and Bowe reported that the trees had been planted on the Village Green with assistance from pupils at the school.

Parish Noticeboards – The parish noticeboards had been re-varnished and an invoice received for payment.

**2512 Highways**

1. Maintenance – The following matters were discussed:

The street light is out outside Beech House, Blennerhasset

It was agreed to contact the Chief Executive at the Borough Council advising that the Parish Council is not satisfied with the road sweeping in the area. The road sweeper has not been in the area for some time. Previously the sweeper had swept the middle of the road from Bothel to Torpenhow where there is no debris as it has all been pushed to the side by vehicles.  Only after complaints has the sweeper retuned to sweep the sides of the road. Not sweeping roads leads to gullies being covered and not working properly and has a contributory effect on the deterioration of the road.

The Torpenhow to Ireby road is in a poor condition and nothing has been done on the Blennerhasset to Fitz road.

Some work had been done on the Torpenhow to Cockbridge road.

It was suggested that Highways should also be requested to replace the posts on the village signs at Torpenhow.

As Cllr Keith Little the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport had previously advised that the County Council would keep the parish council informed of highway matters it was proposed that a letter should be sent to Cllr Little raising the parish council’s concerns in relation to highways maintenance issues and to also request an up-date on the A595 improvements as there is concern about the junction layout at Cockbridge and residents of Torpenhow have expressed their concern about the height of the embankment on the realigned part of the scheme. It is felt that there will be increased noise levels at the west end of Torpenhow. The parish council had not received a response to two requests for a site meeting.

1. Speed Monitoring – Nothing to report.

**2513** **Planning**

1. Applications received:

 HOU/2021/0245 – Solway View, Whitrigg, Torpenhow

Proposal: New roof to bungalow, with raised section allowing new master bedroom suite at first floor level, new cladding and roof finish, existing masonry chimney to be replaced with flue

1. Decisions: None

**2514 Finances**

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

Balances at 31st December, 2021

Nat West £ 276.20

Cumberland Building Society £15,003.93

1. The following payments were approved for payment:

Torpenhow Village Hall – Room Hire 10.11.21 £ 12.00

Clerk’s account Quarter 3 £429.57

HMRC – PAYE Quarter 3 £107.40

Clerk’s expenses Quarter 3 £146.57

N. Harrison – Re-varnishing Notice boards £ 35.00

(c) Cumberland Building Society Safeguarding Review

 Correspondence received from the Cumberland Building Society advised that they are to carry out a review of the information they hold on the Parish Council’s account to ensure the information is up-to-date The authorised signatories were requested to complete the forms provided by the Building Society. Once completed this will be forwarded to CBS.

**2515 Correspondence**

Correspondence received since the last meeting:

CALC - Allerdale Three Tier Meeting February 3rd 2022

Allerdale Borough Council Budget Consultation 2022/23

PCC - Policing Element of Council Tax Consultation

CALC - Meeting of Cumberland CALC District Associations

CALC - New Chief Officer

CALC - LGR Latest News

CALC - Winter 2021 ACT Gazette

CALC - Town and Parish Council Meeting held on 2 December

CALC Newsletter November-December 2021

CALC - LGR Update on Parish Council Elections

Allerdale Borough Council Statement of Community Involvement

Local Government Reorganisation Briefing for CALC Members

CALC - Press Statement - Allerdale GDF Working Group Recommends Formation of Community Partnership

Great North Air Ambulance – letter of thanks for the parish council’s donation and continued support.

**2516 Blennerhasset Playing Field**

(a) Management of the Field – This item had been discussed in the public participation part of the meeting. Mr Lester representing the Cricket Club was asked whether the Cricket Club would be interested in taking over the management of the field. Mr. Lester agreed to put the request to the Members of the Cricket Club at its next meeting.

(b) Play Area – The Play Area had been discussed in the public participation part of the meeting and will be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

(c) Grass Cutting Contract 2022 – The contract had been advertised locally inviting tenders for the grass cutting at the field for the 2022 season. One tender had been received to carry out up to 26 cuts in the summer of 2022 (April – September). Due to increased costs of fuel, maintenance and insurance the price had increased this year to £1700. RESOLVED to accept the tender from Baggrow and Blennerhasset Cricket Club in the sum of £1700. The terms and conditions are as per the tender document and the contractor to provide a copy of their public liability insurance to the parish council.

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**2517 Amendments to Village Maps**

Further to minute 2500 it was agreed that a message would be put out on local social media asking residents if there are any new properties in the villages or if there are any inaccuracies that need amending on the existing maps.

**2518 Agenda items for the Next Meeting**

No additional items were added to the agenda for the next meeting.

**2519** **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at Torpenhow Village Hall on Wednesday 9th March, 2022 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Signed……………………………….

Chairman

Date………………………………….