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

**on Wednesday 9th March, 2022 at 7.30pm**

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

Also present: A. Bowness, Cumbria County Councillor, Jonathan Bushell, Project Lead – Capital Programmes at Cumbria County Council and one member of the public.

**2520 A595 Bothel Strategic Improvement Scheme**

Jonathan Bushell, Project Lead – Capital Programmes from the County Council provided an outline and update on the A595 Bothel Strategic Improvement Scheme. The aim of the project is to improve the quality of the road, reduce travel times and improve the connectivity between Carlisle and West Cumbria for residents and businesses and in turn support the local economy. The first phase of the project is to construct the A595/Greyhound/Torpenhow junction as advanced works which means that this part of the junction will be finished before the wider scheme starts. The first phase is funded by Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership using the Government’s Getting Building Funding. The Department for Transport will fund the wider scheme in Phase Two which is subject to funding approval. Story Contracting has been appointed as the contractor for the improvements at the Greyhound Inn/Torpenhow junction. Construction will start in June 2022 and hoped to be completed by December 2022. Members were provided with a plan showing the improvements at the junction. The scheme will include upgrading the existing crossroads junction to a staggered ghost island arrangement, a proposed traffic island arrangement for pedestrian crossing, the redundant section of the U2103 Torpenhow road to be utilised for a 3.0m wide non-motorised user shared use path. Bothel beck will be re-aligned with a proposed attenuation pond sited on the Bothel side of the A595.

The main scheme includes improvements to the Cockbridge/Torpenhow junction and a crawler lane from the A591/Bothel junction to Wharrels Hill Wind Farm. The plans for Cockbridge junction do not include a right had turn lane but some adjustments will be made to help with visibility when pulling out of this junction. Members raised concern relating to 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. Members were advised that a noise and visual assessment had been undertaken. The consultants had advised there will be no increase in noise. However, Mr. Bushell agreed to raise these concerns again with the consultants. Residents had also complained about the traffic management whilst the tree cutting/hedgerow removal work had been carried out this week. Residents had also raised concern at the amount of hedgerow that had been removed. Members were advised that the area will be re-planted and fully landscaped once completed. Mr. Bushell agreed to pass on the Parish Council’s concerns relating to traffic management. Mr. Bushell advised that the Torpenhow to Bothel road will be closed for the majority of the work. Further information about the project can be found at [www.cumbria.gov.uk/A595Bothel](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/A595Bothel)

Mr. Bushell advised that a communication will be sent out once a decision is received from DfT and the Parish Council will be kept informed of any developments. The Chair thanked Mr. Bushell for attending. Mr. Bushell left the meeting at 8.05pm

**2521 Apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr. M. Grainger, Allerdale Borough Councillor.

**2522 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th January, 2022 were accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

**2523 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

**2524 Dispensation Requests**

None received.

**2525 Public Voice Slot**

The parish member in attendance provided an update on the Play Area. An account has now been opened with the Bank of Scotland and a meeting held with Playdale to discuss options for the area. It is hoped that the plans and prices will be available at the next meeting.

The Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – a resident in Torpenhow had queried whether the Parish Council are to do anything to mark the event.

An anonymous complaint had been received regarding issues with some building work being undertaken at a property in Blennerhasset. The problems involve the siting of a skip, delivery vehicles damaging the village green and the blocking of an access road. The Clerk was requested to raise the issues with the occupier of the property.

**2526 Reports from Outside Bodies**

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

(b) Cumbria County Council – Cllr Bowness reported that Cumbria County Council had secured an additional £1.2 million funding for the ongoing highway issues in the County. Highways will be using jet patching and thermal road patching technology to fix potholes and repair the roads.

Cllr Bowness also provided an update on local government reorganisation and advised that elections will be held in May to elect a shadow authority for Cumberland.

(c) Police Community Support Officer – It was reported in the newsletter that the PCSO’s for the area had visited St Michaels School at Bothel to speak to the children on 'People who help us'

**2527 Matters arising from the Meeting 12th January, 2022**

Street light at Blennerhasset (min ref 2509) – The resident at Blennerhasset had been advised of the potential costs involved.

Blennerhasset Bridge – (Min ref 2511) - The weight limit signs had now been replaced.

Cricket Club – (min ref 2516) - The Clerk advised that she was still awaiting the documents requested at the last meeting.

**2528 Highways**

1. Maintenance – The following matters were discussed:

A road closure had been re-activated to allow Cumbria Highways to carry out highway works on the U2015 Torpenhow, from its junction with the A595. It was noted that the some of the drains that had been kerbed looked to be higher than the road surface. It was agreed to monitor whether surface water is draining away properly.

The road sweeper had been through Torpenhow but had failed to clear the passing places. The Clerk agreed to report this on the Myallerdale app.

Northing has been done on the Blennerhasset to Fitz road. The Clerk would report this again on the Highways reporting system.

Highways had attempted to resolve the flooding issues at the Blennerhasset/A595 junction. However, the hole in the verge made by Highways to allow water to run off had now been blocked up. Inevitably the junction will flood again.

Cumbria County Council Local Area Highways Network Manager had provided a response to the MP’s letter to clarify the points raised:

Resurfacing of the Cockbridge to Torpenhow road – This work had now been carried out.

Blennerhasset to Fitz road – Highways will be carrying out small scale patching works in the next financial year.

U2104 still forms part of the County Council’s inspection regime and responsibility for both the surfaced and unsurfaced sections still remains with the County Council

Root Cutting and cleaning works of the gullies and drainage main line were carried out in February and May 2021 on the Torpenhow to Ireby road. Some small-scale works are still required. There are still some issues with water coming onto the highway from adjacent land and an issue with the drainage system outfall onto the highway from adjacent land and an issue with the drainage system outfall into the water course at the lowest point, these issues are to be assessed.

Stanger Hill to Ireby road had been inspected, it was found that a tree root was causing damage to the carriageway, a drain was covered by the road surface works which had been rectified. Drainage issues, the landowner had been requested to remove the bund and illegal connection into the highway drainage system.

Cumbria County Council are requesting that in future constituents report any defects via the Highways reporting facility.

1. Speed Monitoring – Nothing to report.

**2529** **Planning**

1. Applications received:

 LBC/2022/0006 – Newbiggin Grange, Torpenhow

 Listed building consent to install solid wall insulation (internally) using the vapour open swip insulation system, top up the existing loft insulation to approx. 300mm, install high heat retention storage heaters and mechanical ventilation for kitchen and bathroom – No objections

LBC/2022/0012 – Pear Tree House, Blennerhasset

Listed Building consent to replace the property windows and replacement of roof to extension.

Members noted that it was unclear from the drawings on the Borough Council’s website what type of windows are to be installed and as the property is a listed building the new windows should be in keeping with the windows installed at the present time.

 Decisions:

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

 GRANTED

**2530 Finances**

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

Balances at 28th February, 2022

Nat West £ 276.20

Cumberland Building Society £14,285.80

1. The following payments were approved for payment:

Rocket Sites – Website Hosting Fee £ 18.00

Clerk’s account Quarter 4 £459.76

HMRC – PAYE Quarter 4 £114.80

Clerk’s expenses Quarter 4 £149.26

Donations granted to:

 Torpenhow Village Hall £200.00

 Blennerhasset & Baggrow Social Centre £200.00

It was noted that the LGA pay award for 2021-2022 had been agreed at 1.75%. The Clerk’s account for Quarter 4 included the backdated pay.

A request had been submitted to HMRC for a refund of VAT amounting to £379.38

 (c) Appointment of Internal Auditor/Review of the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit

 RESOLVED that T. Gear be appointed to carry out the internal audit of the accounts for financial year 2021/22. It was agreed that the internal auditor is sufficiently competent to carry out the role and the internal audit function is completely independent from the council’s management of financial control

(d) Cumberland Building Society Safeguarding Review

Cllr Powley reported that he had completed the review form and handed this back to the

Cumberland Building Society.

**2531 Correspondence**

Correspondence received since the last meeting:

Water Resources West Invitation: Water Resources West Stakeholder Workshops – January & February 2022

CALC - Allerdale Geological Disposal Facility Community Partnership

CALC - Allerdale 3 Tier Meeting February 3rd 2022

Cumbria County Council/CALC - Cumbria Highways new reporting process

CALC - New CALC newsletter

CALC - Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Newsletter - 9 February

Cumbria County Council - Connecting Cumbria Newsletter February 2022

Allerdale Borough Council - Green Homes Grant

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee - letter for town and parish Councils

Cumbria County Council Newsletter A595 Bothel Strategic Improvement Scheme

CALC - Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Newsletter - 17 February

Letter from MP/Cumbria County Council re Highways

CALC - Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Newsletter - 25 February

Allerdale BC - Statement of Community Involvement – Adoption

CALC - Note of Allerdale Three tier meeting February 2022

CALC - Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Newsletter - 2 March 2022

CALC - 15th March 2022 7pm To 8.30pm LGR /Elections Update

CALC - Climate change (Allerdale 3 tier meeting)

**2532 Blennerhasset Playing Field**

(a) Play Area – The parish member in attendance had provided an update in the public participation part of the meeting.

(b) Management of the Field – The Clerk reported that a response had not been received from the Cricket Club. The Clerk was requested to enquire if the Cricket Club had considered the parish council’s proposal for the Cricket Clun to take over the management of the field.

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**2533 Amendments to Village Maps**

A message had been put out on local social media requesting any updates or amendments to the village maps. (Min ref. 2517). At the date of the meeting only one amendment had been received. It was agreed to put this on hold to see if any further amendments are received.

**2534 The Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

The Parish Council had received an enquiry as to whether it intends to do anything to mark this event. Commemorative mugs had been purchased to mark the Golden Jubilee and were given to children in the parish. It was agreed that mugs would be given to children 16 years of age and under. Cllrs Bowe and Raine agreed to liaise with regard to the number of school aged children in the parish. Cllr Raine agreed to liaise with the Village Hall Committee at Torpenhow to enquire if they would be willing to purchase the mugs and the Parish Council would arrange for reimbursement.

 **2535 Website**

The Clerk reported that over the last few weeks the blennerhasset.com website had been suspended and access had also been denied. The Clerk was requested to enquire what the issues are with the hosting company and to also check how many people have administration rights for the website.

**2536 Agenda items for the Next Meeting**

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

**2537** **Date of Next and Future Meetings**

The dates for the parish council meetings for the next Council year were agreed:

Annual Parish Meeting 11th May, 2022 – 7.00 pm - Blennerhasset Village Hall

Annual Meeting 11th May, 2022 – 7.30pm – Blennerhasset Village Hall

Bi-monthly Meeting 13th July, 2022 – 7.30 pm – Torpenhow Village Hall

Bi-monthly Meeting - 14th September, 2022 – 7.30pm - Blennerhasset Village Hall

Bi-monthly Meeting - 9th November, 2022 – 7.30 pm – Torpenhow Village Hall

Bi-monthly Meeting 11th January, 2023 – 7.30 pm - Blennerhasset Village Hall

Bi-monthly Meeting 8th March, 2023 – 7.30 pm - Torpenhow Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Signed……………………………….

Chairman

Date………………………………….