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

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

Present: Cllrs. B. Armstrong (Chair), M. Giddings, W. Powley and D. Telford

Also Present: Cllr J. Perry, Cumberland Councillor and one parish member.

**2602 Apologies for absence**

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

Apologies for absence were also received from M. Grainger, Allerdale Borough Councillor and A. Bowness, Cumbria County Councillor.

**2603 Minutes 14th and 28th September, 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th September and the extra ordinary meeting held on 28th September, 2022 were accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

**2604 Declarations of Interest**

Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests

(i) To declare any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature

(ii) To declare any pecuniary interests in items on the agenda and their nature

Cllrs Armstrong and Telford declared an interest in matters relating to the Play Area.

**2605 Dispensation Requests**

None received.

**2606 Public Voice Slot**

The parish member in attendance raised the recent issues at Ellenbank bungalows, Blennerhasset. Various emails regarding the issues had been circulated to Members. Members agreed that an urgent site meeting with Home Group would be requested to consider the options with regard to the paths and the issues with tenants driving over the village green.

One of the tenants had requested permission to cross over the green with a vehicle. Unfortunately, the parish council cannot consent to this request as there is a byelaw which states it is an offence to drive over or to encroach onto a village green with a vehicle.

Dog fouling incidents are on the increase in Blennerhasset. It was suggested that additional signage needs to be placed around the village. The parish council will also be looking into whether it is feasible to have CCTV sited in locations most used by dog owners.

It was raised whether traffic calming measures could be installed at the entrances to Blennerhasset. Members responded that data gathered at these locations in the past had found there were no issues with speeding. Cllr Perry agreed to raise this Highways.

**2607 Reports from Outside Bodies**

Apologies had been received from M. Grainger, Allerdale Borough Councillor and A. Bowness, Cumbria County Councillor. J. Perry, Cumberland Councillor reported that the Council Plan for Cumberland has now been agreed and the council is currently looking at the budget for next year. The main focus is for the new council is to be safe and legal by 1st April 2023. Cllr Perry also reported that Cumbria Police are undergoing a re-organisation process.

Police Community Support Officer – No report received.

**2608 Matters arising from the Meetings 14th and 28th September, 2022**

The rubbish dumped outside two properties in Blennerhasset had been reported again to the Borough Council.

Cllrs. Armstrong and Telford had been provided with a copy of the Council’s Code of Conduct, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

**2609 Highways/Maintenance**

It was reported that nothing had been done on the Blennerhasset to the Fitz road. The issue of flooding at the A595/Blennerhasset junction was discussed. Cllr Perry agreed to raise the flooding issues in Blennerhasset with Highways.

**2610** **Planning**

1. Applications received:

HRN/2022/0006 – Land at Blennerhasset

Removal of 80m of hedgerow

Members objected to the application as the removal of the hedgerow would cause disruption to the public footpath. Members felt that a solution could be found to supply water to the land without the need to remove the hedgerow.

OUT/2022/0025 – Old Sawmill Yard, Blennerhasset

Re-submission of application OUT/2019/0026 for outline permission with all matters reserved for a single dwelling. No objections

FUL/2022/0240 – Vacant plot, Manse Row, Blennerhasset

Single dwelling Unit No objections

(b) Decisions:

HOU/2022/0152 – Orchard House, Blennerhasset, CA7 3QX

Replacement of existing patent glazing with new velux windows with a small area of the roof changed from slate to lead. GRANTED

Re-consultation on planning application

HOU/2022/0122 - Kingarth, Torpenhow, Wigton CA7 1JA

Construction of new driveway access to property to replace existing shared access GRANTED

**2611 Financial Matters**

1. The financial statement at 31st October, 2022 had been circulated with the agenda.

Balances at 31st October, 2022

Nat West £ 276.20

Cumberland Building Society £17,608.63

Income Received – Allerdale BC £ 5,325.00

Half Yearly Precept

(b) The following payments were approved for payment:

Lowther Forestry – Tree Survey, Blennerhasset £ 534.00

Strawberry Cottage Landscapes – Grass cutting 2022 season £3130.00

Donations granted to

Great North Air Ambulance Service £ 500.00

Wigton Baths Trust £ 100.00

(c) Nat West Account – This item was deferred until Cllr Bowe is in attendance

(d) Budget/Setting the Precept

A draft budget for financial year 2023/24 had been circulated with the agenda. The usual income and expenditure items were noted. RESOLVED that the precept would remain at £10,650.

**2612 Correspondence**

Correspondence received since the last meeting was noted by Members.

CALC - Cost of Living and Climate Crisis

Cumbria County Council - Connecting Cumbria Newsletter October 2022

CALC - Cost of Living Crisis: Warm Spaces

CALC - LGA’s cost of living support hub and bulletin

CALC – Various Training/Carbon Literacy Training

CALC - Cumbria Local Authority Climate Update

CALC - Local Government Reorganisation Newsletters/Update email from Andrew Seekings

Cumbria CC - Connecting Cumbria Newsletter September 2022

CALC - CALC Newsletter

CALC - Migrant Help Training session re asylum process

CALC Annual General Meeting Change of Date 29th October 2022

CALC - North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust bank holiday arrangements

CALC - Multi Agency Response to Flooding

CALC - National Moment of Reflection

Cumbria County Council – Application to add a public right of way at Whitrigg – Members considered the correspondence which stated that the consultation process had commenced and the County Council will consult with user groups, the local council and other interested parties. The County Council had advised that only four user evidence forms had been submitted with the application and two were from the same person. Also submitted were four letters of support two of which were from the same person. The County Council stated this is not sufficient evidence to prove a public right and requested whether the parish council could gather additional evidence. The Parish Council support the application and agreed to display the notice on the noticeboards and forward a copy of the notice to the former councillor who raised the request.

**2613 Blennerhasset Playing Field**

1. Play Area – Cllr Telford reported that not much progress had been made since the last meeting. The Clerk was requested to contact the Borough Council’s planning team to establish whether planning permission is required to extend the area of the play park. Further funding will be explored once it is established whether planning consent is required and the issues at the Charity Commission are resolved.
2. Management of the Field – The Clerk reported that the Trustees named on the Charity Commissions website had been contacted to establish whether they still wished to remain as a trustee. The majority of responses advised they no longer wished to be involved. One trustee had advised they would contact the Charity Commission to see what was required to update the financial reporting.

**2614 Tree Safety Inspection, Blennerhasset**

The report from Lowther Forestry had been circulated. It was noted there are no matters of concern in the report. A further survey will be carried out in three years’ time. Cllr Powley requested that a site meeting be held with ENW to discuss the trees on the village green in the vicinity of their lines.

**2615 Donation Requests**

The two donation requests received were considered. RESOLVED to grant £500 to the Great North Air Ambulance Service and £100 to Wigton Baths Trust.

**2616 Co-option of new councillors**

An expression of interest had been received from a parishioner in Blennerhasset. This was considered by Members. RESOLVED that the four remaining vacancies should be filled by parishioners to represent Torpenhow.

**2617 Agenda items for the Next Meeting**

Invitation of tenders for the grass cutting contract.

**2618**  **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 11th January, 2023 – 7.30 pm - Blennerhasset Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm

Signed………………………………………………….…Chairman Date………………………………….