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

**on Wednesday 11th January, 2023 at 7.30 pm**

Present: Cllrs. J. Bowe (Chair), M. Giddings, W. Powley and D. Telford

Also Present: Cllr J. Perry, Cumberland Councillor.

**2619 Apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr. B. Armstrong. 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.

**2620 Minutes 9th November, 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th November, 2022 were accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

**2621 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

Cllr Telford declared an interest in matters relating to the Play Area.

**2622 Dispensation Requests**

None received.

**2623 Public Voice Slot**

No matters were raised.

**2624 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 budget consultation for Cumberland Council is now open and will close at the end of January. The proposed increase on council tax is 4.99%. Cllr Perry also spoke about the proposed locality working which will replace Cumbria County Council’s local area committees and a meeting will be held on 12th January in Workington when the Allerdale GDF Partnership will announce the revised boundaries for the search area for a geological disposal facility.

Police Community Support Officer – No report received.

**2625 Matters arising from the Meeting 9th November, 2022**

Tree Trimming Blennerhasset – ENW had confirmed that the survey is planned for the end of March/April. Cllr Powley agreed to meet with the surveyor.

Claimed Restricted Byway at Whitrigg – Cumbria County Council had confirmed they had received one request for user forms and a representative from the Trial Riders Association had written to Cumbria CC claiming that the track should be a Byway Open to All Traffic as it is shown on old historic road maps. Further evidence can be submitted over the next couple of months then the new Cumberland Council will take over the claim.

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Ellenbank Bungalows – Cllr Powley reported that he had spoken with Home Group regarding the issues at the bungalows. Home Group advised that they had been advised that the work required to the paths had been done. Home Group will make enquiries and report back to the parish council.

**2626 Highways/Maintenance**

Cllr Perry had raised the issue of flooding at the A595/Blennerhasset junction with Highways. It was reported that the road had flooded again following the recent heavy rain. The Fitz road had also flooded.

It was reported that Highways are still not collecting signage such as diversion signs left from when work had been carried out.

Dog fouling continues to be an issue in Blennerhasset. Cllr Perry agreed to report the issues to the Street Scene Officer at the Borough Council.

**2627** **Planning**

1. Applications received:

CAT/2022/0032 – 1 High Mains, Torpenhow, CA7 1HX

Fell 1 Cypress, Fell group of Lawson Cypress Trees

(b) Decisions:

CAT/2022/0032 – 1 High Mains, Torpenhow, CA7 1HX

Fell 1 Cypress, Fell group of Lawson Cypress Trees

Decision – Not to make a TPO proposed works can proceed.

HOU/2022/0111 – Newbiggin Grange, Torpenhow, CA7 1JJ

Replacement of existing windows, reinstatement of old openings and construction of a modern single storey extension and installation of solar panels in the south elevation roof

 GRANTED

LBC/2022/0025 – Newbiggin Grange, Torpenhow, CA7 1JJ

Listed building consent for replacement of existing windows, reinstatement of old openings and construction of a modern single storey extension and installation of solar panels in the south elevation roof LBC GRANTED

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. GRANTED

**2628 Financial Matters**

1. The financial statement at 31st December, 2022 had been circulated with the agenda. No matters were raised.

(b) Members noted that the NJC pay award for parish clerks had been agreed back dated to 1st April 2022. The clerk’s salary with effect from 1st April would increase by £1 per hour.

(c) The following payments were approved for payment:

 Clerk’s account Quarter 3

 (includes back dated pay award) £557.35

 HMRC PAYE Quarter 3 £139.40

 Clerk’s expenses Quarter 3 £173.10

 Allerdale BC Playground Inspection £ 69.60

 Torpenhow Village Hall Committee

 Room Hire 9.11.2022 £ 30.00

(d) Nat West Account – The mandate to update the signatories on the NatWest account was completed and signed by the new and existing signatory.

**2629 Correspondence**

Correspondence received since the last meeting was noted by Members.

Cumberland Councillor - Slides from the Informal Council meeting 12.12.22

CALC - Police and Crime Commissioner asks the public their view on budget proposals

CALC - Local Government Reorganisation Newsletters

CALC - New opportunity - ZCCP Sector Group Leads

CALC - ACT Update - December 2022

CALC - Cumbria Local Authority Climate Update

CALC - Cost of Living Crisis Questionnaire for Town & Parish Councillors

Cumbria CC - Connecting Cumbria Newsletter December 2022

CALC - Information Updates: COL Crisis, Vaccinations, Cumbria’s Holiday Activity and Food Programme, Key Information, News and Support for Businesses/ Educational Settings, General Information

NALC - Chief Executive's Bulletin

CALC - Boundary Commission for England - Final Proposals

CALC - Parish Council elections 2023

CALC - Cumbria Local Authority Climate Update 12.12.22 to 22.12.22

CALC News - November & December 2022

CALC/FLD - Cumbria Good Lighting Technical Advice Note: Designing Out Light Pollution in Cumbria

CALC - Cost of Living Crisis Information Update from Cumbria Poverty Reference

Letter of thanks from Wigton Baths Trust

Letter of thanks from the Great North Air Ambulance

Bothel & Wharrels Liftshare Scheme – Posters will be displayed on the parish noticeboards.

**2630 Blennerhasset Playing Field**

1. Play Area – Cllr Telford reported that there had been no progress since the last meeting.

(b) Management of the Field – Members noted that despite being advised to the contrary the financial reporting on the Charity Commission website had not been completed. The Clerk agreed to make further enquiries.

**2631 Grass Cutting Tenders 2023-2024 Seasons**

Members noted that the grass cutting contract for the village greens and the playing field are due to be renewed. RESOLVED that the tender would be advertised and contractors invited to submit tenders for two seasons. Tenders to be received by 7th March, 2023.

**2632 Co-option of new councillors**

It was agreed to leave this item in abeyance as parish elections are scheduled for May 2023.

**2632 Agenda items for the Next Meeting**

Appointment of grass cutting contract 2023-24.

**2634**  **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 8th March, 2023 – 7.30 pm - Torpenhow Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

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