

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at Blennerhasset Village Hall**  
**on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 at 7.30 pm**

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

Also Present: J. Perry, Cumberland Councillor

**2808/24      Apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr. B. Armstrong. The reason for absence was noted and accepted.

**2809/24      Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

**2810/24      Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. D. Telford declared an interest in item 9 on the agenda – Planning Application HOU/2025/0043.

**2811/24      Dispensation Requests**

None.

**2812/24      Public Voice Slot**

No members of the public were in attendance. The following matter was raised:

Abandoned vehicle – A white van appears to have been abandoned next to the Village Green in Blennerhasset. This will be reported to the relevant authority.

**2813/24      Reports from Outside Bodies**

Cumberland Councillor – Cllr J. Perry reported on the changes to the waste and recycling services. Cllr Perry also reported that Cumberland Council had submitted their response to the Boundary Commission's review of Cumberland Council wards and the Government has launched a public consultation in areas chosen for the Devolution Priority Programme. The consultation will seek views on a proposal to form a Mayoral Combined Authority for the local government areas of Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness. The full consultation document can be found on the GOV.UK page.

Police Community Support Officer – Nothing received.

**2814/24      Matters arising from the Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2024**

The Parish Council had been notified of an alleged planning breach on land on the edge of Blennerhasset.

**2815/24      Highways/Highway Maintenance**

The condition of the Blennerhasset to the Fitz road was discussed. Cllr Perry agreed to follow up the correspondence with Highways in 2020.

**2816/24      Planning**

(a) Applications received:

FUL/2025/0010 - Highwood Nook, Mealsgate, Wigton, CA7 1LA  
Proposal: New Calf Building

FUL/2024/0205 - Millfield, Torpenhow, Wigton, CA7 1JF  
Proposal: Installation of Ground Mounted Solar PV array for domestic property

HOU/2025/0008 - Thornfield House, Torpenhow, CA7 1JF  
Proposal: Alteration and extension for rear Sunroom.

HOU/2025/0043 - The Rowans, Blennerhasset, Wigton, CA7 3RE  
Proposal: Alterations and extensions for first floor bedroom suite over garage.

(b) Decisions:

FUL/2024/0205 - Millfield, Torpenhow, Wigton, CA7 1JF  
Proposal: Installation of Ground Mounted Solar PV array for domestic property  
GRANTED

- (a) The financial statement at 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 had been circulated with the agenda and was noted by Members.

Balances at 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2025

Nat West	£ 276.20
Cumberland Building Society	£13,246.81

- (b) Members noted the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2024-25 had been agreed in November 2024 backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2024.

- (c) The following accounts were approved for payment:

Clerk's account Quarter 3	£591.12
(Includes back dated pay award)	
J Rae – Refund HMRC – PAYE Quarter 3	£147.60
Clerk's expenses Quarter 3	£118.05
Torpenhow Village Hall Committee	£ 24.00
J Rae – Refund Signage	£ 29.99
Clerk's account Quarter 4	£542.64
HMRC PAYE Quarter 4	£135.60
Clerk's expenses Quarter 4	£107.35
Rocket Sites – Website	£ 24.00
Grants to:	
Torpenhow Village Hall Committee	£200.00
Blennerhasset Village Hall	£200.00
St Michaels Church Torpenhow	£250.00

- (d) The mandate to update the correspondence address to 23 Chapel Meadows Bothel CA7 2AB with COIF Charity was completed and signed by the authorised signatory.
- (e) A mandate from Cumberland Building Society to add the Clerk Janice Rae as an authorised person was signed by the two authorised signatories.
- (f) RESOLVED to appoint Mr T. Gear to carry out the internal audit of the accounts for financial year 2024-25.

Members noted the correspondence received since the last meeting:

CALC – Devolution update Consultation Open  
 Cumberland Council – Newsletters/Consultations  
 Local Government Boundary Commission - Cumberland Warding Pattern Consultation  
 CALC - Website training/information session  
 CALC News  
 CALC - Copyright Issues for Parish Council Websites  
 Cumbria Constabulary Neighbourhood Policing Pledge  
 Connecting Cumbria Newsletter  
 New Flood Warning Service Testing  
 Moving over to a .gov.uk domain: New guidance on GOV.UK now live!  
 CALC – Scam Leaflet

- (a) Play Area – Cllr Telford reported there was no further progress with fund raising. Cllr Telford agreed to fix the No Dogs signage at the entrance to the Playing Field.
- (b) Play Area Inspection – Members discussed the Play Area Inspection report received in January. There were no high risks identified. Members considered the recommendation that signage should be erected with information including the site address, contact information for maintenance issues and emergency contact details for the facility. The Clerk agreed to make enquiries regarding wording and cost of a suitable sign.

**2820/24 Donation Request – St. Michael's Church, Torpenhow**

Members considered the request for financial assistance towards the upkeep of the churchyard received from St. Michael's Church, Torpenhow. RESOLVED to support the request and grant £250.00.

**2821/24 Noticeboard, Blennerhasset**

Members discussed replacing the notice board at Blennerhasset. Initial enquiries to replace the noticeboard with an aluminium noticeboard would cost in the region of £900. The Clerk agreed to make further enquiries regarding the costs.

**2822/24 Use of personal email address/.gov domain name**

The information from Active Councils regarding the move to a .gov domain was considered. Members resolved that as it is not mandatory at the moment to have a .gov website the Parish Council would continue with the current arrangements.

**2823/24 Poor's Allotments, Blennerhasset**

A mandate to update the correspondence address had been completed. Members noted that part of the area known as the Poores Allotments is registered to two addresses in Blennerhasset. As there is no governing document available for the Charity it was agreed to leave the matter in abeyance.

**2824/24 Grass Cutting Tenders – Village Greens 2025-26 Seasons**

Tenders had been invited for the cutting of the village greens and strimming the river bank. One tender had been received for the next 2 seasons grass cutting at a fixed price of £3129 per year and strimming the river banks three times a year at £95 per cut. The price being 5% more than the 2023/4 seasons. Members resolved to accept the tender.

**2825/24 Cumbria Constabulary Neighbourhood Policing Pledge**

On 16th January 2025 Cumbria Constabulary launched its Neighbourhood Policing Pledge that committed the Constabulary to the provision of ten individual priority areas to further support communities and the Constabulary in the delivery of Neighbourhood Policing. The second pledge relates to the provision of visible and accessible Neighbourhood Policing Teams that are committed to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, and to improve public confidence. One aspect of this will be the requirement for local Neighbourhood Policing Teams to engage better with local council representatives. Specifically, the Pledge commits the Constabulary to twice yearly virtual meetings within each NPT locality with parish and town councils.

**2826/24 Vacancies**

No expressions of interest had been received in the existing vacancies.

**2827//24 Agenda items for the Next Meeting**

No additional items to be added.

**2828/24 Date of Meetings for the Next Council Year**

The following dates were agreed:

Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council 14 May 2025 – Torpenhow Village Hall – 7.00pm  
2 July 2025 – Blennerhasset Village Hall – 7.30pm  
10 September 2025 – Torpenhow Village Hall – 7.30pm  
12 November 2025 – Blennerhasset Village Hall – 7.30pm  
14 January 2026 – Torpenhow Village Hall – 7.30pm  
11 March 2026 – Blennerhasset Village Hall – 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm

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