

## Coniston Parish Council

### Minutes of the meeting of Coniston Parish Council held in the Reading Room, Coniston Institute, Coniston at 7.00pm on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2015

**Present:** Cllr H Troughton (Chair)  
Cllrs – K Batty, T Coward, A Hall, A Metcalfe and J Stoddart  
Clerk – J C Carroll

**In attendance:** 6 members of the public, Mr M Pittwood – Bluebird Project & County Cllr D Fletcher

Minute Number		Action By
381/2015	<b>Apologies</b> <b>RESOLVED:</b> Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Kelly (holiday).	
382/2015	<b>Requests for Dispensations</b> No requests received.	
383/2015	<b>Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of Agenda items</b> Cllr Hall – declared an interest in matters relating to planning and will take no part in planning discussions. All Councillors as Custodian Trustees of the Coniston Institute and Ruskin Museum.	
384/2015	<b>Minutes of Meetings 16 November and 14 December 2015</b> <b>RESOLVED:</b> that the Minutes of the Meetings held on 16 November and 14 December 2015 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.	
385/2015	<b>Public Participation</b>  <u>Police</u> PCSO Forrester sent a report by e-mail. Since the last meeting that has been one crime in Torver of criminal damage. The police have dealt with 8 non-crime related matters, including anti-social behaviour, suspicious vehicle, road traffic collision, highway disruption and an abandoned vehicle.  <u>Mr M Pittwood, Bluebird Project</u> Mr Pittwood is a volunteer with the Bluebird Project. In 2010 he completed nearly 4 years and successfully applied to the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) to amend the byelaws to enable a proving trial on Coniston. Now he will be working on a written application to run Bluebird within the byelaw for the proving trial. The LDNPA would like a year's notice before the event and the Bluebird Project would have to be responsible for the whole event including the water, villagers, visitors, roads, transport, safety, etc. Currently there is no idea of the numbers of people that would come to the area to visit for the proving trial, it could range from hundreds to thousands. Mr Pittwood would like assistance from the Parish Council with some of the elements the Bluebird Project	

have to provide for the event and also that the local community would support it.

There is currently no confirmed date when the proving trial will be held, it is dependent on volunteers completing the Project first. Additionally it was noted that when Donald Campbell came to Coniston for his record attempt he waited 8 weeks for the correct conditions.

It was suggested a working party was formed consisting of villagers, businesses and Councillors. This will be further discussed at the next Parish Council meeting. Mr Pittwood does have an initial planning document for the event and this needs to be expanded on. There were suggestions of waiting until the Project was completed before commencing event planning.

Mr Pittwood clarified that the proving trial would be a one-off event not to be repeated. The Bluebird would not be part of Records Week in the future as it has no class to run in, does not meet the requirements and the Records Week would not want it to run during their event.

There was discussion about who owns the craft. A company, The Bluebird Project Limited has four Directors which owns the restoration.

Cllr Hall declared an interest and chose to work on the working party for the village and will not make a decision at LDNPA. She suggested looking at grant funding for the event.

#### Coniston & Torver Community Land Trust

Mr A Cameron explained that St Andrews Youth Centre project is progressing and Cumbria County Council Highways Engineers assisted with technical consideration of School Lane.

#### County Councillor D Fletcher

County Cllr Fletcher explained the budget is being prepared and an extra 2% can be put on Social Care to take into account the increase from minimum wage to the living wage which is required for a lot of carers and residential unit workers. The number of staff is being reduced.

Following the recent flooding in the County there is a lot of road building to be done. Dunmail Raise is seen as a priority by the Parish Councils and County Cllr Fletcher suggested writing to LDNPA. Currently all resources are temporarily going on work required following the flooding and the Parish Council should continue to be proactive.

Coniston is connected to superfast broadband and people can contact their service provider to upgrade.

Parish Cllrs expressed concerns about the lack of white lining in the Coniston and commented how Torver has many newer white signs and lines on the road. County Cllr Fletcher requested a list of outstanding issues and he will investigate.

	<p>PCSO Forrester had suggested rubber speed strips at Haws Bank, County Cllr Fletcher stated these could be noisy and suggested road markings like those between Adams Bridge and Ship Inn or Slow signs and he will investigate.</p> <p><u>District Councillor A Hall</u> District Cllr Hall is reporting back to SLDC regarding properties that were flooded in the area (Thwaite Farm, Thwaite Cottage and Low Yewdale) as they could be entitled to a Council Tax reduction. County Cllr Fletcher will also look into this.</p> <p>The abandoned chair reported at Coniston Primary School in last month's minutes has been removed.</p> <p>District Cllr Hall has sent a letter to Steve Emmett to thank him for the work done following the flooding in 2009. Many villagers have said this has saved flooding issues in early December this year.</p> <p>No more green household waste will be collected this year as the team is concentrating on picking up furniture from flooded areas in the county.</p> <p><u>Public Participation</u> There was discussion about the amount of rain Coniston received lately and it was said the parish did not have the same amount as other areas like Ambleside, Shap and Keswick. Coniston has an Emergency Plan which is due for updating. There are some sandbags available to the public behind Coniston Mountain Rescue base although some of them are rotten as they have been there since 2010.</p>	
386/2015	<p><b>Ongoing Issues and Actions from the Last Meeting</b></p> <p><u>To update on progress of contacting the Highway Steward</u> Cllr Troughton has spoken to the Highway Steward and sent an e-mail with a list of issues but has been unable to get an update.</p> <p><u>To consider financial information on charging at the Bridge Toilets and agree whether or not to implement charging from Easter 2016</u> Cllr Coward is ongoing with this and awaiting figures from David Coxon from LDNPA.</p> <p><u>To update on progress of repairing streetlights at Day Bank</u> A private contractor from Keswick has given an approximate figure of £500.00 plus VAT. Currently the Parish Council does not have enough budget to pay for this but a local business owner offered to hold a quiz to raise funds for the project.</p> <p><u>To receive update from South Lakeland District Council on their concerns of no running water at the Bridge Toilets</u> Cllr Troughton has received an e-mail from the Environmental Health Department stating they would like to speak to the Parish Council about concerns relating to infectious diseases and lack of running water at the wash hand basin. Hand washing is the most effective way to prevent the spread of such infectious diseases and therefore any other measure would be seen as a public health concern. Cllr</p>	

	<p>Troughton will arrange to speak to the Environmental Health Department.</p> <p>It was noted that Tarn Hows toilets run by National Trust &amp; many toilets run by LDNPA toilets have no running water.</p> <p>Cllrs will consider replacing the hand basins at the Bridget Toilets.</p> <p><u>To update on location of postbox in relation to planning application 7/2015/5662 - Post Office, 6, Yewdale Road, Coniston - Proposed reinstatement of the existing door to form a separate entrance to the apartment over 6 Yewdale Road, Coniston</u></p> <p>The Planning Department of the Lake District National Park Authority has received an e-mail from the applicant with information about the re-locating of the postbox. The request to move the postbox is in process but could take months and the Post Office are looking to relocate it to Hills garage. A sign will be put in the current location explaining where the new postbox is once it is installed.</p> <p>Cllrs would prefer the postbox to remain on Yewdale Road and the Co-op could put a postbox in a spare doorway which is almost opposite the existing postbox.</p>	
<b>387/2015</b>	<p><b>Planning Applications</b></p> <p>No planning applications received.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Cllrs noted the following Notices of Grants of Planning Permission:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○</li> <li>● 7/2015/5478 – Timley Knott, Haws Bank, Coniston – new Juliet balcony to rear ground floor lounge / dining room and windows to patio doors</li> <li>● 7/2015/5448 – Coniston Hall Farm, Coniston – extension of existing cattle shed over midden</li> <li>● 7/2015/5406 – 12 Ruskin Avenue, Coniston – single storey rear extension</li> <li>● 7/2015/5125 – Land off Yewdale Road, Coniston – development of 6 dwellings (3 affordable)</li> <li>● 7/2015/5509 – Land Head, Coniston – erect new timber jetty from boathouse into Coniston Water</li> <li>● 7/2015/5473 – 5 Ruskin Avenue, Coniston – erect single storey extension to rear elevation</li> <li>● 7/2015/5516 – Low Bank Ground, Coniston – window replacement</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Cllrs noted the following Notice of Listed Building Consent:-</p> <p>7/2015/5591 – Monk Coniston Hall, Coniston – alterations at The Cottage to provide en-suite facilities to existing bedrooms</p>	
<b>388/2015</b>	<p><b>Neighbourhood Plan</b></p> <p>South Lakeland District Council has stated the date of the referendum for Coniston Neighbourhood Plan will be Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016. A leaflet will be prepared in advance to send to all households with further details.</p>	AC
<b>389/2015</b>	<p><b>Audit Procurement Changes</b></p> <p>The Clerk explained she has contacted Cumbria Association of Local Councils</p>	

	(CALC) for further information on this and whether or not to opt out. Clarification is being sought on the possible costs likely to be incurred in opting out.	
<b>390/2015</b>	<b>Highways Issues in the Parish</b> No further issues reported.	
<b>391/2015</b>	<b>Coniston Emergency Plan</b> <b>RESOLVED:</b> Cllrs will review and update the Emergency Plan.	
<b>392/2015</b>	<b>Fireworks Display 2016</b> <b>RESOLVED:</b> Cllrs agreed to oversee the fireworks display in 2016 held at Coniston Sports and Social Centre.	
<b>393/2015</b>	<p><b>Councillor Matters</b></p> <p>There is a tree down and has been a landslide in the Coppermines.</p> <p>The two churches of Coniston and Torver have been joined which will protect the church in Torver and the Schoolroom.</p> <p>The X12 Bus service has an annual passenger count of 30,000 but continues to need assistance with finance.</p> <p>The Institute and Museum management is in contact with the Arts Council to look at the future management of the Institute and Museum.</p> <p>The Primary and Secondary School are currently very strong with both Carol services extremely good.</p> <p>Reverend Tim Harmer has announced he will be finishing in July 2016.</p> <p>A coffee morning held in aid of Flood Victims raised £520.00</p> <p>The continuing problem of water coming from the garden of Line Cottage down Park Gate to the bus shelter at Adams Bridge and onto Haws Bank is no nearer getting solved. The Highways Department are aware of who the owner is of Line Cottage but have not had time to progress this and are now diverted onto other tasks due to the recent flooding in the county. There is also a problem with water coming off the field at Dow How onto the road. The problem is drains not being kept clear on the banks and inadequately sized drain pipes.</p> <p>There are concerns about the blocked drains on Yewdale Road and it was stated that they are just soakaways. It was suggested writing to the businesses to ask them to clean out the gulleys.</p> <p>Cllr Troughton has left the Christmas Lights committee as she did not agree with the direction they were going in. An electrician has fixed one set of lights which are now up in the village. There were offers of help for a Christmas Party, however, the committee decided not to hold one this year.</p> <p>There are problems at The Garth with potholes and street lamps out. A damaged</p>	

	<p>streetlight on Ruskin Avenue is a health hazard.</p> <p>An event should be held in Coniston with information on the high speed broadband.</p> <p>There is a problem with the pavement between Dow How and Gateside.</p>																			
<p><b>394/2015</b></p> <p><b>395/2015</b></p>	<p><b>Financial Matters</b></p> <p><u>Budget 2016/17</u> Cllrs view a lengthsman as being important. Consideration is being given to charging for toilets. <b>RESOLVED:</b> Item deferred for the next meeting to enable more detailed costings to be considered.</p> <p><u>Payments</u> <b>RESOLVED:</b> Cllrs authorised payment of the following:-</p> <table> <tr> <td>• EON – streetlights (by direct debit)</td> <td>£105.38</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Clerk’s Salary</td> <td>£323.45</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• HMRC</td> <td>£80.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• EON – Bridge Toilets (by direct debit)</td> <td>£13.69</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Coniston Institute (room hire)</td> <td>£73.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Stephen Airey</td> <td>£114.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Lake District National Park Authority (Bridge Toilets)</td> <td>£34.56</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Lake District National Park Authority (Bridge Toilets)</td> <td>£103.68</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• United Utilities (Bridge Toilets)</td> <td>£147.68</td> </tr> </table>	• EON – streetlights (by direct debit)	£105.38	• Clerk’s Salary	£323.45	• HMRC	£80.80	• EON – Bridge Toilets (by direct debit)	£13.69	• Coniston Institute (room hire)	£73.00	• Stephen Airey	£114.00	• Lake District National Park Authority (Bridge Toilets)	£34.56	• Lake District National Park Authority (Bridge Toilets)	£103.68	• United Utilities (Bridge Toilets)	£147.68	
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<b>396/2015</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b> <b>RESOLVED:</b> Cllrs noted the following e-mails:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LDNPA – Minutes of Oxenholme to Grasmere Corridor Travel Planning Group meeting; Creation, Diversion &amp; Extinguishment of Public Paths Between Tarns Road (East of Boon Crag) and High Cross, Coniston and Hawkshead Parishes; November news from the See More programme;</li> <li>• SLDC – South Lakeland District Council Parish Remuneration Panel Report 2016/17; Annual Review of SLDC Constitution 2016; Press Release: Appeal for housing for flood victims; Flood Impact Survey - to be sent out to businesses; Coniston Neighbourhood Plan referendum</li> <li>• CALC – paperwork for District Association meeting - Thursday 26th November from 7pm at Gilpin Bridge Inn, near Levens; CALC AGM 14 November 2015; Notes from South Lakeland District Association meeting 26 November; CALC circular for December and January; New Year 2017 Honours - request for nominations; Storm Desmond; Flood crisis information from Cumbria County Council; Bulletin on National Developments and Meetings - 4 December 2015; Corporate message – donations, offers of equipment and volunteers</li> <li>• Hawkshead Parish Council – agenda 17<sup>th</sup> November, minutes 17<sup>th</sup> November; agenda 15<sup>th</sup> December</li> <li>• Lakes Parish Council – plans agenda 25<sup>th</sup> November; agenda 9 December</li> <li>• Torver Parish Council – minutes 5<sup>th</sup> November</li> </ul> <p>To note the following correspondence has been received since the last meeting:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter from Great North Air Ambulance – requesting donation</li> </ul>																			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter from Coniston Sports &amp; Social Centre thanking for donation</li> <li>• South Lakeland District Council – meeting 17 December 2015</li> </ul>	
<b>397/2015</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016 7pm</li> </ul>	

Meeting closed at 9.40pm.

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Date

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Signed & Approved by (Chair)