



ANNUAL REPORT & Accounts

April 2016 – March 2017

Thank You's and Achievements of the Year

The Parish Council would like to thank:-

- Cllr Hall for her hard work and fundraising in keeping the X12 bus service going between Coniston and Ulverston.
- PCSO Forrester for attendance at the Parish Council meetings with updates on local incidents and ensuring a report is always sent prior to meetings
- Cumbria County Councillor Dave Fletcher for attending our meetings
- Coniston Development Centre – Toni Whirity for her work on updating the Parish Diary on the Coniston Parish Council website with events happening locally
- Alastair Cameron for his work on the Coniston & Torver Community Land Trust
- Coniston Christmas Lights Committee for the 2016 display.
- Coniston Sports & Social Centre for organising the village fireworks display
- Those involved in running and organising the clubs and societies in the village that make the village the vibrant and thriving community it is.

The Parish Council has supported and achieved the following in the last year:-

- Paying for six street lights in addition to those provided by Cumbria County Council at Brow Steps and Days Bank
- Grounds maintenance for the playground
- Maintenance of the two bus shelters in the village
- Running the Bridge Toilets to keep them open free of charge for the benefit of the community and visitors to the area from Coniston 14 event in March to the end of Records Week in November. As a result of additional signage in 2016 there has been an increase in donations.
- Reporting numerous potholes, blocked drains, issues on the roads and faulty streetlights to Cumbria County Council
- Appointing contractors to clear verges in the village
- Taking charge of the Coniston Christmas Lights and Coniston Fireworks Display
- Ensuring a new postbox was placed in Coniston on Yewdale Road with easy access for people
- Acting as Custodian Trustees of the Coniston Institute & Ruskin Museum
- Commenced revising the Coniston Parish Plan
- Having a beacon on Maundry Bank to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday on 21st April
- Coniston Copper Project

Councillors also attend the following meetings:

- High Furness Local Area Partnership
- Coniston Institute Committee
- Flood Forum
- Coniston & Torver Community Land Trust
- Coniston Business Forum

Chairman's Report 2016 – 17

I write this report as Chair of Coniston Parish Council and am proud to represent my local Parish as my grandfather, John Dixon did for many years. I see Coniston as a vibrant and thriving community, I am a 'local lass' having returned to the village after almost 20 years of service with the Greater Manchester Police. I always said I was 'going home' as I headed up the M6 north towards Cumbria and that first sight of the Lake District fells never failed comfort and welcome me back. It is often too easy to forget how special it is to be part of a local community, knowing and caring for your neighbours and belonging to a wider 'family' (as with all families, not always easy to get along with, or without conflict, but ultimately all on the same side!).

The Parish Council continues to support and represent the people of Coniston and has made a number of notable achievements over the last year, which are outlined in this report. As Central Government budgets being constantly tightened it is vital that as a community we pull together to get the best value out of any funding we have. The Parish Council supports many local amenities, including, the provision of some local street lighting, the maintenance of the children's playing field, maintaining bus shelters, the Bridge toilets and clearing verges, for example.

The Parish Council acknowledges the excellent work done by Councillor Hall and others in fundraising and campaigning to keep the X12 bus service running between Ulverston and Coniston, if it was not for such a commitment by these individuals I am sure this vital service would be lost. The development of local housing continues, driven by the Coniston and Torver Community Land Trust, many villages are not as lucky as we are to be able to expand local housing provision.

I personally would like to thank all the Councillors that represent Coniston so well, voluntarily giving up their time to support their community, I share in their frustration when we feel that the voice of our Parish is not heard, but we will keep on raising this voice on your behalf. I extend a special thanks to Janette, our Clerk who is invaluable to myself and other Councillors; she is tireless in her commitment, knowledgeable about procedures and dedicated in her role, thanks for keeping us all on track!

There are many many people in Coniston who deserve thanks, they run clubs and societies, raise money for great causes and put on fantastic events - too many to name personally, but thank-you, your work does not go unnoticed. I would just like to mention two people that have been acknowledged at a national level, an MBE for William Wendt and a British Empire Medal for Pam Kirkbride, we are lucky to have such dedicated people in this small village.

Coniston has exciting and positive times ahead, with the return of Bluebird, the Coniston Copper Project and possible World Heritage Status for the Lake District; there may also be challenges from the impact of Brexit on local farmers and tourism; but what should not be lost is the sense of local community, I would encourage everyone to play an active part, speak to your local Councillors, attend a Parish Council meeting (I might even get the biscuits in), but mainly be proud to say that you are from Coniston!

Tracy

Summary of Year 2016 – 17

18th April – 6 Cllrs, David Coxon (Lake District National Park Authority Commercial Property Manager) and 10 members of the public

- Talk from David Coxon on car parks
- Quotes being obtained for repairing the street lights at Brow Steps and Days Bank.
- A group of local people including Parish Cllrs has been set up to discuss events when Bluebird returns for the Proving Trail (no dates are known yet).
- A beacon will be held for the Queen's birthday at Maundry Bank on 21st April at 7.30pm

11th May – Extraordinary Meeting – 7 Cllrs and 10 members of the public

- Decision made on the planning application in respect of St Andrews

18th May – Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Coniston Parish Council Meeting – 6 Cllrs, 4 members of the public, Simon Hill (Area Ranger for National Trust South Lakes)

- Three new Cllrs were welcomed to the Parish Council (Jeff Hart, Maria Swyer and Jeff Carroll)
- Talk from Simon Hill in his new post
- Cllrs agreed to have a Parish Walk focussing on Station Road, Devonshire Terrace and The Banks

20th June – 5 Cllrs, 4 members of the public, Lisa Keys (Coniston Copper Project) and John Moffat (General Manager South Lakes National Trust)

- Talk from John Moffat on local updates on National Trust
- Talk from Lisa Keys on the Coniston Copper Project

18th July – 6 Cllrs, 6 members of the public, Peter Hosking (Cumbria County Council Highway Network Manager) and Steve Emmett (Coniston Flood Forum)

- Talk from Peter Hosking to assist Cllrs in understanding the Highways department and to get issues dealt with.
- The new postbox is now in place on Yewdale Road.

15th August – 6 Cllrs and Mr Robinson (Carter Jonas)

- Talk from Mr Robinson re the proposal for a pay & display 76 space car park at Walna Scar / Fell Gate.

5th September – 5 Cllrs, Mairi Lock (Lake District National Park Authority Planner)

- Prior to planning training Cllrs had a short meeting to discuss a planning application

19th September – 4 Cllrs, Mr R Bowyer & Mr J Lampton (Carter Jonas), Peter Blackburn (John Ruskin School Headteacher), PCSO Forrester, County Cllr Fletcher and 8 members of the public

- Talk from Peter Blackburn on John Ruskin School
- Talk from Carter Jonas on fishing rights on Coniston Water
- A separate meeting was held with the Keswick to Barrow Committee, National Trust, Parish Cllrs and local people to improve the route for 2017 and this has resulted in a change of route.

17th October – 6 Cllrs, P Milburn and K Grainger (Cumbria Fire Service) and 2 members of the public

- Talk from P Milburn and K Grainger on the need to recruit on-call fire-fighters in Coniston. There are concerns the station could close due to a lack of retained fire-fighters.
- Confirmation has been received from Highways work will commence on The Banks from 7th November for 2 weeks.
- Grants given:-

Coniston & Torver Parochial Church Council	£	300.00
Coniston Institute	£	500.00
Ruskin Museum	£	500.00
Coniston Community Development Centre	£	300.00
Coniston Sports & Social Centre (fireworks)	£	400.00

7th November – Extraordinary Meeting – 4 Cllrs

- To discuss four planning applications: - 7/2016/5700, 7/2016/5690, 7/2016/5685 and 7/2016/5581

21st November – 7 Cllrs

- Cllrs had a standard meeting with a report from the Police, Coniston & Torver Community Land Trust, reports from meetings Cllrs had attended, updates on ongoing issues, decisions on planning application, Lake District National Park Authority Local Plan Review discussed, Highways issues reported, Parish Plan Revision, Financial Matters inc £100.00 grant to Great North Air Ambulance.

19th December – 6 Cllrs, Dave McGowan (Lake District National Park Authority Head of Planning), Katie Dawson (Coniston Christmas Lights Committee), County Cllr D Fletcher and 6 members of the public

- Talk from Coniston Christmas Lights on their request for Coniston Parish Council to be involved.
- Talk from Dave McGowan on why planning applications Coniston Parish Council views not upheld by Lake District National Park Authority Development Control Committee.

16th January – 6 Cllrs, Sara Spicer (Lake District National Park Authority Area Ranger South), County Cllr D Fletcher and 6 members of the public

- Talk from Sara Spicer on the local work done by the Ranger Team
- Cllrs agreed the precept will be £20,500.00 for 2017/18 with £2,000.00 allocated for a Lengthsman.

20th February – 5 Cllrs, Matthew Tweed (National Trust Ranger Volunteers), PCSO E Forrester, Alastair Cameron (Coniston & Torver Community Land Trust) and 1 member of the public

- Talk from Matthew Tweed on Tarn Hows and the work going on
- Update from Alastair Cameron on the recent Housing Needs Survey and progress of St Andrews development

20th March – 6 Cllrs, 2 pupils from John Ruskin School, 2 pupils from Coniston Primary School, Bill Sharrod (Coniston Tourist Information Centre) and 2 members of the public

- Cllrs talked with the school children about their requirements in the village and what they enjoyed about Coniston.
- Talk from Bill Sharrod on the Tourist Information Centre
- Update on what is required for a Lengthsman

Summary of Accounts 2016 – 17

Receipts	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
SLDC Precept	19,080.91	16,835.76	18,647.93
SLDC Parish Grant	919.09	1,164.24	983.03
LDNPA Neighbourhood Plan		1,032.19	528.09
South Lakeland District Councillor		250.00	-
Bridge Toilets Collecting Boxes	1,650.97	330.76	297.62
LDNPA Bridge Toilets		170.56	-
VAT Refund	632.57	1,579.81	2,941.71
EON Credit		12.57	-
Bank interest	43.32	33.27	50.26
Coniston Sports & Social Club - fireworks	1,612.50	2,250.00	-
Go Lakes Travel (bus stops – Haws Bank & Ruskin Avenue)		-	2,500.00
South Lakeland District Council (dropped kerbs)		-	1,500.00
Coniston Christmas Lights	2,246.50	677.10	
South Lakeland District Council (Shop Front Scheme)	500.00		
LDNPA Coniston Parish Plan	250.00		
TOTAL	26,935.86	24,336.26	27,448.64

Expenditure	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
Clerk's Salary	5,655.14	4,961.99	4,995.00
Admin	1,269.30	1,491.46	3,004.69
Maintenance (bus shelter cleaning & grass cutting)	1,744.80	1,771.00	1,680.80
Street lighting	1,384.64	2,003.12	1,509.43
s137	35.00	35.00	30.00
Playground	1,008.97	-	1,031.16
Powers & Duties (grants)	2,100.00	2,250.00	2,250.00
Insurance	916.77	878.68	900.24
Bridge Toilets	4,836.70	3,438.32	4,909.99
Neighbourhood Plan	101.99	1,067.35	371.09
Repairs	-	242.00	-
Coniston Sports & Social Club fireworks	1,935.00	2,700.00	
Election Costs	-	-	647.93
Bus shelters (Ruskin Avenue & Haws Bank)	-	-	12,043.32
Cumbria County Council (dropped kerbs)	-	-	3,021.12
Coniston Christmas Lights	2,515.80	744.52	
Coniston Parish Plan	312.00		
TOTAL	23,816.11	21,583.44	36,394.77

Bank balance at start of year	3,182.50	429.68	9,375.81
Income for Year	26,935.86	24,336.26	27,448.64

Expenditure for Year	23,816.11	21,583.44	36,394.77
Closing balance for Year	6,3205.25	3,182.50	429.68
Allocated funding	554.50	54.50	54.50
Parish Council balance	5,747.75	3,128.00	375.18

Precept for 2017 - 18

The precept for 2017-18 is £20,500.00. This is an increase of £500.00 due to planning to contract a Lengthsman and £2,000.00 of the precept has been allocated for this.

Plans for 2017 - 18

Completing Parish Plan and the actions arising from it and starting a Lengthsman scheme.

Planning Applications 2016 - 17

The Lake District National Park Authority Planning Department asks Parish Councils for their views on planning applications which have to be given within certain time limits. The Parish Councils views can be:-

- Support
- No objections
- Objection

Reasons, material planning considerations, can be stated for these views. The Coniston Neighbourhood Plan along with the Parish Council's views and LDNPA policies are taken into account when the LDNPA make a planning decision. The LDNPA either delegate the decision for the planning application to a Team Leader in the Planning Department or it goes to the Development Control Committee for the decision to be made.

The Parish Councillors have commented on the following planning applications that are within the Parish of Coniston:-

Planning Application Number & Site	Description	Coniston Parish Council Response	LDNPA Decision
7/2016/5053 - Thurston, Lake Road, Coniston	Minor alteration to roof over garage and raise end portion of existing Eastern roof and include additional rear elevation dormer; following Planning Approval ref: 7/2006/5535 (commenced)	Objected	Granted
7/2016/5152 - St Andrews Diocesan Youth Centre, Coniston	Change of use of youth centre to form four local occupancy dwellings including partial demolition and six new build local occupancy dwellings within the grounds. Associated	Objected	Granted

	car parking and landscaped areas are to be created		
7/2016/5165 - Old Telephone Exchange, Yewdale Road, Coniston	Change of use of and extensions to the former telephone exchange building to form a bistro / restaurant	No objections	Granted
7/2016/5229 - 9, Beck Yeat, Coniston	Two storey rear extension & alterations to windows on front elevation	No objections	Granted
7/2016/5287 - Waterhead Hotel, Coniston	Conservatory extension with external terraces. Car park extension and additional landscaping	Supported	Granted
7/2016/5339 - How Farm, Days Bank, Coniston	Variation of condition 3 of planning application 7/2007/5500 - to allow short term holiday letting	Strongly object	
7/2016/5433 - Ascot House, Haws Bank, Coniston	Two Storey Side Extension and Driveway Alterations	Supported	Granted
7/2016/5494 - Rose Villa, Tilberthwaite Avenue, Coniston	Conversion of 4 bed house in to 2 flats. One being 1 bed, the other being 2 bed - retrospective	Objected	Granted with one flat having a local occupancy clause
7/2016/5576 - Greenburn Beck, Little Langdale	Hydro scheme consisting of a small stone powerhouse, buried pipeline and intake within Greenburn beck	Supported	Granted
7/2016/5577 - Little Arrow Moor, Walna Scar Road, Coniston	Alterations to existing disused quarry to provide a 58 bay pay and display public car park	Objected	Decision delegated to approve to the Head of Development Management subject to conditions
7/2016/5643 - Line Cottage, Park Gate, Coniston	Erection of a replacement garage and hardstanding	No objections	Granted
7/2016/5657 - How Farm, Days Bank, Coniston	Change of use of house annex into a local needs dwelling	Objected	Granted
7/2016/5661 - Land off Yewdale Road, Coniston	Seven affordable units	Supported	
7/2016/5700 – 10 Vale View, Coniston	stone built and rendered garden store with reclaimed local green slate roof	No objections	Granted
7/2016/5581 – Meadow House, Coniston	single storey lean-to extension conversion of	Objected	Granted

	outbuildings into annexed accommodation, new first floor gable window to house		
7/2016/5788 - Fairsnape, Coniston	Extensions to dwelling, access improvement (Resubmission of 7/2016/5072)	Objected	Granted
7/2016/5793 - Coach House, Brantwood, Coniston	Partial removal of the existing ground floor internal wall between present Coach House kitchen and wash-up areas to create a larger and more usable kitchen and service area for the newly extended and refurbished Coach House Cafe as per previous approved application (Ref. No. 7/2016/5159 dated 4 May 2016)	Supported	Granted
7/2016/5685 - Land off, Yewdale Road, Coniston	Seven affordable units	Supported	
7/2017/5018 - Shepherds Bridge, Shepherds Bridge Lane, Coniston	Creation of side single storey extension with balcony	No objections	Granted
7/2016/5889 - Park Coppice, Park Gate, Coniston	The caravan club is proposing to install 3No. camping pods at the Coniston Park Coppice site, The pods are 3.3m x 8.2m and 2.9m high with a mono-pitched roof, which will site on concrete pads to provide a secure level base and ensure they are installed at level; access will be via existing site roads with a short length of paving, providing level access and car park to each individual pod	No objections	

Your Councillors are:-

Tracy Coward	Chair	Councillor since June 2015 (appointed uncontested)
Jeff Carroll	Vice Chair	Councillor since May 2016 (appointed uncontested)
Anne Hall		Councillor since June 1987 (appointed uncontested)
Ken Batty		Councillor since May 2012 (appointed uncontested)
Heather Troughton		Councillor since Feb 2015 (appointed uncontested)
Jeff Hart		Councillor since May 2016 (appointed uncontested)
Maria Swyer		Councillor since May 2016 (appointed uncontested)

Contact Details

All Parish Councillors can be contacted via the Clerk:-

Janette Carroll, 8 Old Furness Road, Coniston, Cumbria LA21 8HU

Tel: 015394 41713

E-mail: parish@coniston.info

Website www.coniston.info

If you would like to receive the agendas, minutes etc of meetings or have any ideas or suggestions for the Parish Council please contact us.

Relevant Information

Coniston Parish Council website (including Parish Diary with events) - www.coniston.info

Cumbria County Council – www.cumbria.gov.uk

Reporting Highways Issues (including potholes, road markings, street lights and blocked drains - <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/roads-transport/highways-pavements/reporting-problem-on-highway/WDM/default.asp>

Highways Hotline Tel: 0300 303 2992 (answer phone service evenings, weekends and public holidays)

South Lakeland District Council – www.southlakeland.gov.uk

Reporting Dog fouling - <https://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/your-environment/dogs/dog-fouling/>

Cumbria Choice Based Letting

To register for re-housing with Cumbria Choice (includes Council and Housing Association Properties Locally)

on the <https://www.cumbriachoice.org.uk/Data/ASPPages/1/30.aspx>

Breaches of Planning (including local occupancy clauses)

Most breaches of planning should be reported to Lake District National Park Authority (planning@lakedistrict.gov.uk or Tel: 01539 724 555. Some local occupancy clauses are dealt with by South Lakeland District Council Legal Department (customer.services@southlakeland.gov.uk or Tel: 01539 733 333)

Non-emergency Police number – 101

For reporting all non-emergency issues, including illegal off-road driving and cars parked causing obstruction.