



# ANNUAL REPORT & Accounts

April 2013 – March 2014

Your Councillors are:-

Jeff Carroll	Chairman	Councillor since March 2011
John Stoddart	Deputy Chairman	Councillor since April 2001
Anne Hall		Councillor since June 1987
David Coxon		Councillor since May 2000
Lee Tarr (until March 2014)		Councillor since June 2004
Adam Kelly		Councillor since May 2012
Ken Batty		Councillor since May 2012

### **Thank You's and Achievements of the Year**

The Parish Council would like to thank:-

- Flood Forum – Steve Emmett for his work on the flood forum and related works that have been carried out
- Housing Group – Alastair Cameron, Helen Dodd and the rest of the team for their work with the housing group for Coniston and Torver and creating a Community Land Trust
- Local Police Officers for regular attendance at the Parish Council meetings with updates on local incidents
- Cumbria County Councillor Dave Fletcher for attending our meetings and his support and assistance.
- Coniston Development Centre – Toni Whirity for her work on updating the Parish Diary on the Coniston Parish Council website and as Broadband Champion
- 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
- Grounds maintenance for the playground
- Maintenance of the two bus shelters in the village
- Grant of £200 for Coniston Arts & Crafts Society
- Grant of £130 for Coniston Twinning Association
- Grant of £300 for Coniston Christmas Lights
- Donation of £300 to the Coniston Fireworks display
- Grant of £100 to Friends of Coniston Medical Practice
- Grant of £150 to Coniston Development Centre
- Grant of £200 to Coniston Parochial Church Council
- Grants of £400 each for Coniston Institute and Ruskin Museum
- Running the Bridge Toilets to keep them open for the benefit of the community
- Progressing the Coniston Neighbourhood Plan and undergoing formal consultation
- Administering a shop front grant scheme funded by South Lakeland District Council
- Appointing contractors to clear verges in the village
- Co-ordinated meetings with businesses in the village over concerns with the Coniston Flyer which subsequently led to the formation of the Coniston Business Forum
- Attended meetings about the cut in funding for Coniston Medical Practice which in future years could lead to its closure
- Purchased two new grit bins located at Hawkshead Old Road and Tent Lodge hill
- Organised and half funded a new noticeboard at the Bridge Toilets

- Funded a new website for Coniston Parish Council which includes a parish diary that is regularly updated
- Acting as Custodian Trustees of the Coniston Institute & Ruskin Museum

Councillors also attend the following meetings:

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

## Chairman's Report 2013 - 14

2013-14 has again been a busy year for Coniston Parish Council, and it falls to me as Chair to say some Thank You's. Firstly Thank You to the Clerk, who has had a particularly busy year as the workload of being a Parish Clerk continues to increase; As the higher tiers of Government seem to want to offload their own duties and responsibilities, it often falls to Janette to decipher what it is that we as a Parish Council are being asked to do and how we go about dealing with the requests. Janette remains one of the few CiLCA qualified Clerks in the area, something we should be proud of! Janette has also worked hard alongside Alastair Cameron myself and other Councillors on the **Neighbourhood Plan**, one of the first such plans in the country and so difficult to do when there is little information and no templates to work from. Here's hoping that 2014 will see it finished and adopted. This along with countless other communications discussions, phone calls and general administration have, and I know this only too well, also being married to her (!) has taken a great deal of effort and personal strength, to keep going when some of the answers from other Councils, Authorities and other bodies just aren't forthcoming.

Thank you also to the people who run the other "spin offs" from the Parish Council:-

**Coniston Flood Forum** – Steve Emmett does fantastic work trying to drive Coniston's Flood risk down by liaising with, and badgering the various organisations involved. We've all seen the devastation in Southern England this winter and the more Steve and the Flood forum can do to prevent Coniston being affected the better.

**Coniston & Torver Community Land Trust** – Alastair Cameron Chairing this most effective of teams, made up of people from the communities of Coniston and Torver together with input from Lake District National Park, houses are being provided for you, the parishioners.

**The new Coniston Business Forum** – formed to help try to improve the fortunes of businesses within Coniston (& Torver!) - the Parish Council became aware that some businesses were struggling – the idea here is now that the business community can speak with one voice and liaise more effectively with organisations which can help like South Lakeland District Council, Lake District National Park & Cumbria Tourism. The Forum is open to all businesses, not just tourism-based operations, and I'm sure would be pleased to hear any good ideas for the future.(email [cbf@live.co.uk](mailto:cbf@live.co.uk))

**The Community First Responders** who have treated many locals and visitors with such skill and dedication in the interim while an Ambulance is on the way; the retained **Fire & Rescue Service** who we all value so much; the **Mountain Rescue Team** who often get called out to help not only visitors, but a good many relatively local people too; the **Coniston Carers** who put many hours of extra unpaid work into making sure that the infirm and vulnerable members of our community are able to carry on living in their own homes; the **Twinning Group** who 's mission is to enrich the community with language and perspectives from other culture. Then there are the many other clubs, societies and associations that make for a really strong community. All the people who make these work and put time, dedication and personal sacrifice in to make them work; the community owes you a great deal, so Thank You!

Sometimes it feels as though our little village is under attack and over the last 12 months we have heard about the threat to the Village GP Services and to the services of nearby villages too. The response from the village has been fantastic and I would like to thank the efforts of **The Friends of Coniston Surgery** and our MP **Tim Farron**, who have been brilliant at getting the issue in the News and raised in Parliament, I'm sure we'd all agree that life without easy access to our GP would make life much harder for all and we should fight hard to retain it.

I do, of course, need to thank the Councillors who help by giving up personal time to attend meetings, site visits, meetings of outside bodies etc. I sometimes hear that Councillors are only on the Parish Council for what they can “get out of it”. To be honest I cannot think of one Councillor who gets anything out of being on the Council other than lots of e-mails, phone calls and work. They are all democratically elected members of your community and whilst not all decisions are always popular, somebody has to make them. What’s interesting at the moment is that every sitting Councillor is effectively Coniston born & bred. I would especially like to thank former Councillor Lee Tarr for his 10 years of service to the Council up to his decision to step down in March this year. Lee was a fantastic member who put a lot of effort into the job and was heavily involved in the refurbishment of the Children’s Playground. Thank you also to the Councillors for putting up with me for the last 2 years (almost) as Chair, and I wish the new Chair well when they take over.

And finally a small plea – I said it on my last report too – we have been fortunate to have some really well attended Parish Council meetings in the past year – often when a “more contentious” issue has been up for discussion, it would be fantastic to see more of these people at our monthly meetings – we try to make them informative for those who do attend, and often have guest speakers talking about issues that affect your village. We’re your Council, elected by you, to serve you. Come and tell us what’s going on and how we can help make Coniston an even better place to live!

Jeff Carroll  
Chair  
Coniston Parish Council

## Summary of Accounts 2013 – 14

*Balance b/f* 7,663.63

### Income

Precept	15,395.86
Grant	1,104.14
Cumbria County Council (Coniston Institute)	400.00
LDNPA Neighbourhood Plan	1,077.64
Playground	1,134.29
Bridge Toilets Collecting Boxes	217.35
CSSC (Noticeboard)	550.00
VAT Refund	1,852.89
Amenities Fund	964.62
Bank Interest	44.30
LAP verge maintenance	445.00
Go Lakes Travel (bus stop)	5,000.00

*Total Income* 28,186.09

### Expenditure

Clerk's Salary	4,950.00
Admin	3,855.78
Powers & Duties	2,180.00
Maintenance	5,243.89
Insurance	920.02
Street Lighting	1,640.92
Bridge Toilets	3,577.53
Neighbourhood Plan	1,162.64
Playground	1,676.13
S137	35.00
Shop Front Grant Scheme	1,200.00

*Total Expenditure* 26,441.91

*C/f to 2014/15* 9,375.81

### *Of c/f allocated:-*

Local Area Partnership funding (Torver grit bin)	400.00
Local Area Partnership funding (broadband events)	378.50
Local Area Partnership	82.36
Local Area Partnership funding (verge maintenance)	448.00
Bridge Toilets	1,366.00
Go Lakes Travel funding for bus shelter	5,000.00

**Balance** 1,700.95

## **Precept for 2014 - 15**

The precept for 2014-15 has increased to £18,000.00.

## **Plans for 2014 - 15**

In the next year the Parish Councillors will be looking to:-

- complete the Coniston Neighbourhood Plan by having it adopted by referendum
- address the issues raised in the revised Parish Plan
- decide on all Grant Applications at their October meeting (please ensure any applications are submitted to the Clerk by 30<sup>th</sup> September)

## **Planning Applications 2013 - 14**

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

7/2013/5120 – Railway track from Torver to Little Arrow  
7/2013/5142 – High Bank Ground Farm  
7/2013/5187 – Waterhead Hotel, Hawkshead Old Road  
7/2013/5240 – Waterhead Hotel, Hawkshead Old Road  
7/2013/5212 – 21 Collingwood Close  
7/2013/5258 - Peasecroft, Silver Bank, Coniston  
7/2013/5312 - 12 Collingwood Close, Coniston  
7/2013/5345 - Nether Beck, Haws Bank, Coniston  
7/2013/5058 - 1 Irish Row, Coppermines Valley, Coniston  
7/2013/5404 – Tarn Hows car park  
7/2013/5441 – The Coppermines, The Powder Magazine, Coniston  
7/2013/5471 – Lowfield, Bowmanstead, Coniston  
7/2013/5525 – 7 Beck Yeat, Coniston  
7/2013/5555 – 2, 3 and 4 The Forge, Coniston  
7/2013/5488 – 2 Low Beck, Coniston  
7/2013/5610 – Land adjacent to Barratt Croft, Coniston  
7/2013/5642 – The Coach House, Yewdale Road, Coniston  
7/2013/5632 – Gondola Jetty, Coniston Boat Landings, Lake Road, Coniston  
7/2014/5064 - Lakeland House, Tilberthwaite Avenue, Coniston  
7/2014/5091 - Land to west of Howe Farm, Days Bank, Coniston  
7/2014/5113 – Dixon Ground Barn, Dixon Ground Farm, Coniston

## **Contact Details**

All Parish Councillors can be contacted via the Clerk:-

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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.