



ANNUAL REPORT & Accounts

April 2014 – March 2015

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
- 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 & funding for a new bus shelter at Haws Bank and refurbishing the bus shelter at Ruskin Avenue
- Part funding for three dropped kerbs at Tilberthwaite Avenue and Old Furness Road to assist people manoeuvre about the village
- Grant of £100 for Great North Air Ambulance
- Grant of £400 for Coniston Christmas Lights
- Donation of £400 to the Coniston Fireworks display
- Grant of £100 to Friends of Coniston Medical Practice
- Grant of £200 to Coniston Development Centre
- Grant of £250 to Coniston Parochial Church Council
- Grants of £400 each for Coniston Institute and Ruskin Museum
- Running the Bridge Toilets to keep them open free of charge for the benefit of the community and visitors to the area
- Progressing the Coniston Neighbourhood Plan which is now ready for Independent Examination
- Reporting numerous potholes, blocked drains, issues on the roads and faulty streetlights to Cumbria County Council
- Completing action points in the Coniston Parish Plan
- Supporting the X11 / X12 bus service
- Supporting the Friends of Coniston Medical Practice in their work to keep the Doctor's Surgery open
- Installing planters with cycle stands in the village
- Updating the Coniston Emergency Plan

- Consider the benefits / drawbacks of the Lake District National Park gaining World Heritage status.
- Appointing contractors to clear verges in the village with some funding received from the Local Area Partnership
- 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 2014 – 15 (by Former Cllr Jeff Carroll)

I said in my report last year that would be my last report as Chair of Coniston Parish Council, and that has indeed come to pass! I stepped down from the Parish Council altogether at the January 2015 meeting. It may seem strange, therefore that I am writing the Chairman's report! I have agreed to do this mainly because I was Chair for longer than anyone else over the course of the last year.

I will focus on the achievements of the Council first, as that is the main reason the Councillors wanted to be Councillors!

Following obtaining some money from the GoLakes Travel initiative we decided to replace the old partly wooden bus shelter at Haws bank with a solid block structure which would last much longer and be lower maintenance overall. This is all but completed, just awaiting a nice paint job which is due when the better weather arrives.

The Clerk was also able to access some funds towards three dropped kerbs to aid the less mobile in the community. These were installed outside Barclays Bank and outside the Yewdale Hotel as a pair to make the crossing safer, and a third on Old Furness Road at the request of a number of parishioners with mobility scooters etc. to allow them to access the old railway track.

The Council has been active together with members of the Coniston & Torver Community Land Trust in developing the Neighbourhood Plan. As I write the draft Plan is in the final stages prior to being sent to an independent examiner, if approved then you, the community will be asked to vote in a referendum and should the majority vote "for" the Plan, then it will be adopted, giving the Parish a greater say in the planning decisions which affect the community.

The Clerk has already thanked many people for their contribution, and I and the Councillors would echo that appreciation, without the people who help, whether voluntary or paid, the Council would not be able to achieve what it does throughout the year – Bridge Toilets, Children's Playground, maintaining the Bus Shelters, working to maintain roads, streetlights, drains and footpaths. The Councillors and I would like to make special mention of the Clerk, Janette Carroll who puts in many extra hours trying to understand the vagaries of running a smallish Parish Council.

Many people have asked me why I stepped down from both the Chair position and as a Councillor, and I have been flattered by many comments from people grateful for what I managed to achieve and how I approached the position. Principally, life just got too busy, new responsibilities at work, becoming Deputy Leader of the Mountain Rescue Team and the fact that almost every conversation with my wife, who happened also to be the Clerk revolved around the Parish Council!

Put these factors together with the fact that try as I might I just couldn't get anywhere with most of the statutory bodies with which the Council has to work. The age of reduced budgets and austerity has, in my opinion, turned what were difficult organisations to deal with into bureaucratic, incompetent and misguided operations who really have lost touch with reality, and to be honest it got to the point where I just felt like I was wasting my time.

Hopefully the Councillors who remain and the new blood resulting from my own resignation and now that of David Coxon, a stalwart of the Parish Council for many, many years, will be able to make headway in the near future and get the service Coniston deserves from County and District Council as well as the Lake District National Park.

I wish the Councillors all the best for the coming year and would encourage all of those in the community to attend a Parish Council meeting to understand what goes on.....

Additional Message from Current Chair (David Coxon)

As chair of the Parish Council for the last 2 months and as a retiring councillor I would like to thank Jeff and echo his concerns about the future of local Government. However I do think CPC has fantastic opportunities going forward with new and enthusiastic member and who knows maybe a new Government in due course.

Summary of Accounts 2014 – 15

Receipts	2014/15	2013/14
SLDC Precept	18,647.93	15,395.86
SLDC Parish Grant	983.03	1,104.14
Cumbria County Council (Coniston Institute)	-	400.00
LDNPA Neighbourhood Plan	528.09	1,077.64
Playground	-	1,134.29
Bridge Toilets Collecting Boxes	297.62	217.35
Coniston Sports & Social Centre (Noticeboard)	-	550.00
VAT Refund	2,941.71	1,852.89
Amenities Fund (website & playground)	-	964.62
Bank interest	50.26	44.30
LAP verge maintenance	-	445.00
Go Lakes Travel (bus stops – Haws Bank & Ruskin Avenue)	2,500.00	5,000.00
South Lakeland District Council (dropped kerbs)	1,500.00	-
TOTAL	27,448.64	28,186.09

Expenditure	2014/15	2013/14
Clerk's Salary	4,995.00	4,950.00
Admin	3,004.69	3,855.78
Maintenance	1,680.80	5,243.89
Street lighting	1,509.43	1,640.92
s137	30.00	35.00
Playground	1,031.16	1,676.13
Powers & Duties (grants)	2,250.00	2,180.00
Insurance	900.24	920.02
Bridge Toilets	4,909.99	3,577.53
Neighbourhood Plan	371.09	1,162.64
Shop Front Grant Scheme	-	1,200.00
Election Costs	647.93	-
Bus shelters (Ruskin Avenue & Haws Bank)	12,043.32	-
Cumbria County Council (dropped kerbs)	3,021.12	-
TOTAL	36,394.77	26,441.91

Bank balance at start of year	9,375.81	7,663.63
Income for Year	27,448.64	28,186.09
Expenditure for Year	36,394.77	26,441.91
Closing balance for Year	429.68	9,375.81
Allocated funding	54.50	7,837.86
Parish Council balance	375.18	1,700.95

Precept for 2015 - 16

The precept for 2015-16 is £18,000.00.

Plans for 2015 - 16

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

- complete the Coniston Neighbourhood Plan by having it adopted by referendum
- revise the Parish Plan from 2011-12
- decide on all Grant Applications at their October meeting (please ensure any applications are submitted to the Clerk by 30th September)
- encourage people to attend more Parish Council meetings
- encourage more events held in the village to be advertised free of charge on the Parish Diary on Coniston Parish Council website

Planning Applications 2014 - 15

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

7/2014/5091 - Land to west of Howe Farm, Days Bank, Coniston
7/2014/5113 – Dixon Ground Barn, Dixon Ground Farm, Coniston
7/2014/5140 – Waterhead Hotel, Coniston
7/2014/5177 – Recreation Ground, Yewdale Road, Coniston
7/2014/5248 – Dixon Ground Farm, Coniston
7/2014/5269 – Rosecroft, Lake Road, Coniston
7/2014/5481 – Land adjacent to Barratt Croft, Coniston
7/2014/5487 – Dow Crag House, Park Gate, Coniston
7/2014/5491 – Eastview, Coniston
7/2014/5522 – Underwood, Little Arrow, Coniston
7/2014/5549 – Spoon Hall, Haws Bank, Coniston
7/2014/5547 – Thurston Outdoor Activities Centre, Coniston
7/2014/5582 – Coniston Boating Centre, Lake Road, Coniston
7/2014/5537 – Shepherds Bridge, Coniston
7/2014/5568 – Coniston Old Hall, Coniston
7/2014/5612 – Arrowfield House, Little Arrow, Coniston
7/2014/5712 - Little Langdale Quarries, Little Langdale
7/2014/5669 - Lane Head, Coniston
7/2014/5700 - 3 Oak Howe Cottages, Yewdale Road, Coniston
7/2014/5673 - Land to rear of Kirkdale House, Tilberthwaite Avenue, Coniston
7/2014/5752 - Out Rake, Park Gate, Coniston
7/2014/5759 - The Barn, Atkinson Ground, Coniston
7/2014/5551 – Coniston Sailing Club, Coniston Hall, Coniston
7/2014/5748 – Park Coppice, Park Gate, Coniston
7/2014/5796 - Parrock Quarry, Hodge Close, Smithy Brow, Coniston
7/2014/5799 - High Cross, Hawkshead Hill, Hawkshead
7/2015/5025 - Croft Villa, Haws Bank, Coniston
7/2015/5050 - Pier Cottage, Coniston
7/2015/5049 - Coniston Boating Centre, Lake Road, Coniston

Your Councillors are:-

David Coxon	Chairman	Councillor since May 2000
Adam Kelly	Vice Chairman	Councillor since May 2012
Anne Hall		Councillor since June 1987
John Stoddart		Councillor since April 2001
Ken Batty		Councillor since May 2012
Heather Troughton		Councillor since February 2015
Jeff Carroll (until January 2015)		Councillor since March 2011
Dave Sharp (until November 2014)		Councillor since May 2014

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.