



# ANNUAL REPORT & Accounts

April 2015 – March 2016

## **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 and the rest of the team for their work with the housing group for Coniston and Torver and creating a Community Land Trust
- 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 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
- Running the Bridge Toilets to keep them open free of charge for the benefit of the community and visitors to the area
- Reporting numerous potholes, blocked drains, issues on the roads and faulty streetlights to Cumbria County Council
- Appointing contractors to clear verges in the village
- Coniston Neighbourhood Plan passing referendum and being made legal by the Lake District National Park Authority
- Taking charge of the Coniston Christmas Lights and Coniston Fireworks Display
- 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 2015 – 16**

I write this report as a relatively new councillor and chairwoman (well 12 months since I joined the council). If you had asked me if I thought 12 months down the line I would become chair, I would have said no. I would have said I needed much more experience than what I had when I took over only 4 months into my position of councillor. That being said, I have enjoyed being chair and who knows who will sit in the seat after elections in May, but what I do know is, what a role it is and they will be very lucky to be your chairperson.

The achievements of the council have been great over the year. When I joined, the Council had been working hard with Coniston & Community Land Trust to bring the final developments to the Neighbourhood Plan. After a referendum held in May, you voted 'for' the Plan and it has been adopted, which gives the Parish a greater say in planning decisions which affect the community.

Last year saw the cabinet go live for super-fast fibre optic broadband, something I know many of us were waiting for. Make sure to contact your internet provider for the best deal options they can give you. However, you can also improve the internet service you already have by contacting your provider.

The councillors and I have to thank all the amazing people who make this village what it is. From volunteers, to the paid person, without the local community running events such as Coniston 14, the X112 bus service or maintaining our bus shelters, playground, roads and (dare I mention) street lights, our jobs as councillors would be extremely difficult. Previous chairmen had said to me that Janette, our Clerk would be invaluable to me, and she is. She is like my right hand woman, always there to e-mail, she provides an abundance of advice to me and I, and I know the councillors too, would be lost without her. So thank you Janette!

This May sees elections and your chance to become a councillor. If you feel you have what it takes, if you feel more needs to be done, if you feel you could make a difference, then Coniston needs you! Coniston has always had an election for its councillors. It can be frustrating, it can be hard work, but it is very satisfying and rewarding to know that you are making a difference to your community.

The Parish Council have moved into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with social media and you can now follow us on Twitter @conistonparish or like us on Facebook Coniston Parish Council. Here we will retweet current events happening, let you know what's coming up in the parish and keep you generally informed on local and community news.

Finally, I have to thank the councillors with special mention to John Stoddart, who will not be returning after May. He will be sadly missed and hard to replace. All your efforts are gratefully received.

Heather Troughton  
Chair

## Summary of Year 2015 – 16

20<sup>th</sup> April – 4 Cllrs, 5 members of the public, County Cllr Fletcher & Mr Moffat (National Trust)

- Talk from John Moffat of National Trust with an update on what's happening locally

18<sup>th</sup> May – 4 Cllrs & 4 members of the public

- Annual Parish Council meeting
- Two people were co-opted onto the Council

15<sup>th</sup> June – 6 Cllrs, County Cllr Fletcher, PCSO Forrester, Mr Chamberlain & Mr Higgins (Coniston & Crake Catchment Partnership), 6 members of the public

- Paul Chamberlain and Les Higgins gave a talk about the work carried out by the Coniston & Crake Catchment Partnership

13<sup>th</sup> July – 6 Cllrs, County Cllr Fletcher, Mrs Bailey (Headteacher John Ruskin School)

- Mrs M Bailey gave an overview of the position of the school, the plans with her impending retirement and changes taking place within the school.
- Cllrs reported back on their Parish Walk at Haws Bank area.

1<sup>st</sup> September – 6 Cllrs & PCSO Forrester

- Matters discussed by Councillors include planning applications, highways issues, problems at the Bridge Toilets, Parish Plan and Neighbourhood Plan.

21<sup>st</sup> September – 6 Cllrs, 5 members of the public and Mrs Spicer (Lake District National Park Authority)

- Mrs S Spicer gave a talk about work currently being carried out by the LDNPA in the area and Cllrs had the opportunity to ask questions
- A report was given following the recent talk on the Lake District World Heritage Bid

19<sup>th</sup> October – 4 Cllrs, 3 members of the public and Mr Flitcroft (Citizens Advice Bureau)

- Mr O Flitcroft questioned if there was any requirement for a face-to-face CAB service in Coniston.
- Grants given:-

Coniston Parochial Church Council	£500.00
Coniston Institute	£500.00
Ruskin Museum	£500.00
Coniston Development Centre	£300.00
Coniston Sports & Social Club (Fireworks)	£400.00

16<sup>th</sup> November – 7 Cllrs, 3 members of the public and Mr Emmett (Coniston Flood Forum)

- Mr S Emmett gave a report following a recent scenario flooding exercise set up by the Environment Agency.
- Cllrs met with the New Mechanics Youth Club to exchange what they each do.

14<sup>th</sup> December – 6 Cllrs

- Extra meeting to discuss two planning applications

21<sup>st</sup> December – 6 Cllrs, 6 members of the public, County Cllr Fletcher and Mr Pittwood (Bluebird Project)

- Mr Pittwood explained about the Bluebird Project and the request for local people to be involved in planning for an event when the Proving Trial takes place.

18<sup>th</sup> January – 4 Cllrs, 4 members of the public

- Budgeting for 2016/17 was carried out along with setting the precept.
- £50.00 was given to Great North Air Ambulance

15<sup>th</sup> February – 4 Cllrs, 4 members of the public and Dr Hall (South Cumbria Rivers Trust)

- Dr Hall gave a talk on South Cumbria Rivers Trust and the funding Coniston & Crake Catchment Partnership have received towards projects.
- Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations were confirmed with a Clean for Queen event in March and a Beacon on Maundry Bank on 21<sup>st</sup> April.
- Work is progressing on getting a new postbox on Yewdale Road
- Results of the Neighbourhood Plan referendum reported

21<sup>st</sup> March – 6 Cllrs, 1 member of the public

- Cllrs discussed how to encourage people to stand for election at the forthcoming election on 5<sup>th</sup> May
- Work is taking place to review the Coniston Emergency Plan and look at having resilience equipment in store
- Quotes for streetlights to repair those at Days Bank and Brow Steps are being considered
- A report was received on the initial meeting of the Bluebird Event Working Group

### Summary of Accounts 2015 – 16

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2014/15</b>
SLDC Precept	16,835.76	18,647.93
SLDC Parish Grant	1,164.24	983.03
LDNPA Neighbourhood Plan	1,032.19	528.09
South Lakeland District Councillor	250.00	-
Bridge Toilets Collecting Boxes	330.76	297.62
LDNPA Bridge Toilets	170.56	-
VAT Refund	1,579.81	2,941.71
EON Credit	12.57	-
Bank interest	33.27	50.26
Coniston Sports & Social Club - fireworks	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	677.10	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24,336.26</b>	<b>27,448.64</b>

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2014/15</b>
Clerk's Salary	4,961.99	4,995.00
Admin	1,491.46	3,004.69
Maintenance (bus shelter cleaning & grass cutting)	1,771.00	1,680.80
Street lighting	2,003.12	1,509.43
s137	35.00	30.00
Playground	-	1,031.16
Powers & Duties (grants)	2,250.00	2,250.00
Insurance	878.68	900.24
Bridge Toilets	3,438.32	4,909.99
Neighbourhood Plan	1,067.35	371.09
Repairs	242.00	-
Coniston Sports & Social Club fireworks	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	744.52	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,583.44</b>	<b>36,394.77</b>

Bank balance at start of year	429.68	9,375.81
Income for Year	24,336.26	27,448.64
Expenditure for Year	21,583.44	36,394.77
Closing balance for Year	3,182.50	429.68
Allocated funding	54.50	54.50
Parish Council balance	3,128.00	375.18

### **Precept for 2016 - 17**

The precept for 2016-17 is £20,000.00. This is an increase of £2,000.00 due to work required on the playground, maintenance of lights at Brow Steps and Days Bank, verge maintenance work and to account for increase in other items of expenditure.

### **Plans for 2016 - 17**

With an election on 5<sup>th</sup> May there could be a change in Parish Councillors for Coniston. Priorities for the year will be set by them at their first meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Planning Applications 2015 - 16**

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

- 7/2013/5142 - High Bank Ground Farm, Coniston - Erect new timber jetty, adjacent existing boathouse
- 7/2015/5206 - 15 Beck Yeat, Coniston - Proposed conservatory to front elevation
- 7/2014/5783 - Lawson Park, Coniston - Extension to hostel living room and food under store
- 7/2015/5172 - Thurston Outdoor Centre, Coniston - Installation of a micro hydro system on Knipe Wood Beck, including the provision of an intake weir at GR SD3161196399 and a turbine house at GR SD3139196364
- 7/2015/5216 – Shelt Ghyll, Haws Bank, Coniston – new store in garden
- 7/2015/5246 - Unit 4a, Lake Road, Coniston, Cumbria, LA21 8EW - Change of use from workshop (B1c) to mixed use of workshop (B1c) and retail (A1)
- 7/2015/5249 - Yewdale Hotel, 2, Yewdale Road, Coniston, Cumbria, LA21 8DU - Erection of illuminated and non illuminated signs to the exterior of the building
- 7/2015/5278 - 17 Collingwood Close, Coniston - Proposed Rear Conservatory
- 7/2015/5327 - Hollin Brow, Coniston - Demolition and reconstruction of Hollin Brow
- 7/2015/5371 - Brantwood, East side of lake, Coniston - Install a galvanised metal structure within the entrance to the Ice House
- 7/2015/5478 - Timley Knott, Haws Bank, Coniston - New Juliet balcony to rear ground floor lounge/dining room and windows to patio doors
- 7/2015/5448 - Coniston Hall Farm, Coniston - Extension of existing cattle shed over midden
- 7/2015/5473 – 5 Ruskin Avenue, Coniston - Erect single storey extension to rear elevation
- 7/2015/5509 - Lane Head, Coniston - Erect new timber jetty from boathouse into Coniston Water
- 7/2015/5406 - 12, Ruskin Avenue, Coniston - Single storey rear extension
- 7/2015/5516 - Low Bank Ground, Coniston - Window replacement
- 7/2015/5591 – Monk Coniston Hall, Coniston – Alterations at The Cottage to provide en-suite facilities to existing bedrooms
- 7/2015/5617 - Croft Villa, Haws Bank, Coniston - a) Rebuild and extend the existing single storey side extension; b) alter windows on rear elevation; c) erect small balcony to rear ground floor dining room

- 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
- 7/2015/5661 - Mast, Coniston - Removal of 2 no. antennas. The installation of 4 no. antennas, 2 no. RRU's, 1 no. FTFA box, 1 no. 0.3m and 1 no. 0.6m transmission dishes, alterations within the equipment room and ancillary development thereto
- 7/2015/5678 - Coniston Hall, Haws Bank, Coniston - Variation of condition 2 of application 7/2014/5551 - Replacement extension to provide changing and showering facilities, new disabled access
- 7/2015/5689 - Shepherds Villa Guest House, Tilberthwaite Avenue, Coniston - Change of use from self catering Holiday let to Bed & Breakfast with owners living on site. 7 letting bedrooms and 3 private bedrooms
- 7/2016/5027 - 3 Far End Cottages, Coniston - Replace rotten downstairs living room windows and wooden frames, like for like
- 7/2016/5068 - Beckthwaite, Lake Road, Coniston - Erection of single storey side extension to replace existing entrance hall with new hall and study
- 7/2016/5118 - Shepherds Bridge, Shepherds Bridge Lane, Coniston, Cumbria, LA21 8AL - Replacement of an existing septic tank, with a proprietary package water treatment plant, located in the back garden of the property and outflowing into an adjacent river (Yewdale Beck)
- 7/2016/5072 - Fairsnape, Coniston - Extensions to dwelling, access improvement
- 7/2016/5149 - Coach House, Brantwood, Coniston - Main house new gates: New purposed made iron gates with matching fixed panel above to both front and rear entrance of archway passage. Coach house cafe enlargement and alteration to include: a. Form new doorway between existing Cafe and existing store. New doorway fitted with glazed double doors to match existing glazed doors to rear of coach house. b. Remove partition wall between existing store and existing coach room to form a single room cafe enlargement. c. Add timber flooring on battens and insulation over existing concrete floor in cafe enlargement area with matching timber steps to new doorway. d. Fit glazed sliding doors with fanlights over in existing store and coach room external doorways. Note! Existing vertical boarded double doors in front to be retained. e. Replacement wood stove and flue to main cafe area. f. Glazed panels for upper part existing external doors to cafe entrance & WC lobby. g. Painted metal external stairs to rear of coach house.

Your Councillors are:-

Heather Troughton	Chair	Councillor since February 2015 (co-opted)
Tracy Coward	Vice Chair	Councillor since June 2014 (co-opted)
Adam Kelly		Councillor since May 2012 (elected)
Anne Hall		Councillor since June 1987 (elected)
John Stoddart		Councillor since April 2001 (elected)
Ken Batty		Councillor since May 2012 (elected)
Alan Metcalfe		Councillor since June 2014 (co-opted)

### **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.