

Coniston Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Coniston Parish Council held in the Reading Room, Coniston Institute, Coniston at 7.00pm on Monday 18th April 2016

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

In attendance: 10 members of the public

Cllr Stoddart was congratulated on his 16 years serving as a Coniston Parish Councillor and wished all the best now he was standing down from the Council.

Minute Number		Action By
170/2016	<p>Apologies RESOLVED: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Metcalfe.</p>	
171/2016	<p>Requests for Dispensations No requests received.</p>	
172/2016	<p>Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of Agenda items Cllr Hall - declared an interest in matters relating to planning and will take no part in planning discussions. Cllrs Troughton, Coward and Batty – declared an interest in the planning application 7/2016/5152 - St Andrews Diocesan Youth Centre All Councillors as Custodian Trustees of the Coniston Institute and Ruskin Museum.</p>	
173/2016	<p>Minutes of Meeting 21 March 2016 RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 March 2016 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.</p>	
174/2016	<p>Public Participation</p> <p><u>Mr D Coxon, Commercial Property Manager, Lake District National Park Authority on car parking</u> Mr Coxon explained how all car park and penalty income goes into a pot that is used by all the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA). The charges at car parks are set by the Executive Board of the LDNPA. The penalty levels are £50 reduced to £30 and based on charges by local authorities rather than private parking firms. Income on enforcement has substantially increased due to camera enforcement.</p> <p>At Ruskin Avenue car park, Coniston 550 penalty charges were issued last year out of 31,700 parked vehicles (1.7% of people not paying for parking). The income for LDNPA is essential due to the government grant being reduced.</p>	

The LDNPA does charge for most of its toilets in order to finance keeping them open and as a result has seen less vandalism and less litter.

The minimum length of stay at car parks is 2 hours to encourage people to stay in that area. A transferable ticket is not available to discourage people driving around and instead a day park & ride ticket on Stagecoach bus routes can be purchased (£18 for a family).

It was questioned if the main village car park could have a development contribution with some of the income going into a local village trust. Mr Coxon explained he was not at a level in LDNPA to answer this and currently all the income goes to LDNPA.

In Mr Coxon's opinion Coniston does not have sufficient parking although it is fortunate to have lots of on street parking, especially compared to Hawkshead which has almost none.

Concerns were expressed by the public about volunteers at the Tourist Information Centre having to deal with car park complaints and the possibility of additional signage at the entrance.

It was noted the South Lakeland District Council Environmental Health have not been in contact with the LDNPA about the lack of running water in their public toilets.

Police

PCSO Emma Forrester sent apologies and a report. One crime since last month, a burglary of a building other than a dwelling and 19 non-crime matters (highway disruptions, Mountain Rescue Team call outs, suspicious incidents, suspicious persons, road traffic collisions, illegal off-roading). There are mobile police desks from at Coniston Tourist Information Centre 10-12 on:- 2 June, 4 August, 13 October and 12 January.

Cllrs praised the regular reports sent by the PCSO Forrester.

RESOLVED: Clerk to e-mail Sergeant Johnston with thanks.

Coniston & Torver Community Land Trust

Alastair Cameron of Coniston & Torver Community Land Trust gave an update on various matters:-

Housing Needs Survey -

The last Housing Needs Survey in Coniston was done in 2013 when it showed a total of 23 homes were needed. Since then the Barratt Croft scheme of 5 homes has been completed with planning consent for a further 3 affordable homes off Yewdale Road and a possible 10 homes at St Andrews Youth Centre. A new survey will be started in the next couple of months.

It was questioned if Torver should be included in the survey. People will need to be encouraged to fill in the forms correctly and the right questions need to be asked to give an accurate forecast of housing need in the future.

	<p><i>Occupancy Restrictions / Non-compliance</i> The Coniston & Torver Community Land Trust (CLT) have been checking the occupancy restrictions at The Garth and Old Furness Road. There are several different planning restrictions that apply to different properties in Coniston and although the CLT try to monitor it, it is a burden. Consideration might need to be to employing a person part-time.</p> <p><u>County Councillor D Fletcher</u> No report & no apologies received.</p> <p><u>District Councillor A Hall</u> District Cllr Hall explained money had been refunded to 5 organisations that support the cultural and economic value, one of which is the Ruskin Museum.</p> <p>Recycling at the door for cardboard and plastic is due to start shortly in the area.</p> <p>It was requested that the recycling bins at Lake Road are emptied more often, the area kept more tidy and businesses discouraged from using it. The Clerk is to put details in the local Parish Newsletter of who to contact if there are any issues.</p> <p><u>Public Participation</u> The public expressed their dismay and disappointment that Coniston Parish Council will not be submitting any comments on the planning application 7/2016/5152 - St Andrews Diocesan Youth Centre due to the lack of an independent quorum. People were encouraged to send in their comments individually direct to LDNPA.</p>	
175/2016	<p>Ongoing Issues and Actions from the Last Meeting</p> <p><u>To confirm the signage is in place in the Bridge Toilets</u> RESOLVED: Signage to encourage donations is due to be received within the next day or two and will be sited in the Bridge Toilets.</p> <p><u>To update on reviewing Coniston Emergency Plan & obtaining resilience equipment</u> Cllr Coward is progressing this with Steve Emmett of the Coniston Flood Forum. Additional communication lines will be added along with setting up flood wardens.</p> <p>Mr Emmett has applied for funding for a store behind the Coniston Mountain Rescue Base. South Lakeland District Council will provide some sandbags. Additional equipment suggested is stoves, snow shovels, shovels on wheels and two salt/grit dispensers.</p> <p>It was noted that people who knew they were at risk of flooding should be prepared.</p> <p>Mr Emmett explained there is now a scheme in place to cap insurance policies for properties in flood risk areas.</p>	

	<p><u>To report on the site visit on 29th March for planning application 7/2016/5072 - Fairsnape, Coniston - Extensions to dwelling, access improvement</u> RESOLVED: Following their site visit, Cllrs objected to the planning application due to visual impact, lack of parking, poor access and out of character with the surrounding area.</p> <p><u>To decide on which quote to proceed with between Cumbria County Council and another Contractor to repair the street lights at Brow Steps and Days Bank</u> Cumbria County Council sent a quote for all the work required at Brow Steps and Days Bank. No quote has been received from the other Contractor. RESOLVED: Cllr Troughton to contact other Contractor to ensure quotes are competitive.</p> <p><u>To report on the response given to the Lake District National Park Authority Statement of Community Involvement consultation</u> No response was submitted by Cllr Hall & Troughton.</p> <p><u>To report on the Lake District National Park Authority's policy on overstaying at car parks and the reason for non-transferable tickets.</u> See minute number 174.</p> <p><u>To list the candidates standing for election for Parish Council on 5th May</u> Cllrs noted the people standing are: Ken Batty, Tracy Coward, Jeff Carroll, Jeff Hart, Anne Hall, Maria Swyer and Heather Troughton. As there are only 7 candidates there will be no election.</p> <p><u>To update on the relocation of the postbox on Yewdale Road</u> The Clerk reported the possible location on Yewdale Road has been reported to the planners of the Post Office and an update is still awaited.</p> <p><u>To note the Arboricultural Report on the oak tree at the playground on Lake Road</u> RESOLVED: The Arboricultural Report on the oak tree at the playground on Lake Road was noted and that another report is due in three years.</p>	
176/2016	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>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) RESOLVED: Cllrs objected to the application due to overdevelopment, out of proportion to the site, poor access to the property and lack of parking.</p> <p>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 car parking and landscaped areas are to be created RESOLVED: Cllrs are currently unable to submit comments to Lake District National Park Authority as there is no independent quorum.</p>	

177/2016	RESOLVED: Cllrs noted the following Notice of Grant of Planning Permission:- 7/2016/5068 – Beckthwaite, Lake Road, Coniston – erection of single storey side extension to replace existing entrance hall with new hall and study	
178/2016	Bluebird Project A meeting was held on 13 th April where it was considered having a post to specifically organise and deal with the event surrounding the Bluebird Proving Trials. The events form will be sent to Cumbria County Council for the Proving Trial. A further meeting will be held in June.	
179/2016	Highways Issues in the Parish Potholes on Devonshire Terrace have been reported to the Highways Department. The street signs at Collingwood Close and Lake Road that have fallen off the posts and are faded have been reported to South Lakeland District Council. The potholes at Cat Bank are still there. Bank Terrace and Thurston Bank have water coming through the tarmac in places.	
180/2016	Annual Report RESOLVED: Cllrs approved the Coniston Parish Council Annual Report for 2015/16.	
181/2016	Playground Hedge It was noted the hedge at the playground adjoining Rosecroft has not been trimmed recently. RESOLVED: Clerk to request the property owners trim the hedge.	
182/2016	Councillor Matters Concerns were reported about the road from Kirkby Quarry over Gawthwaite and there have been three serious accidents in the area. Cumbria County Council are awaiting an inquest report before taking any action. Coniston Parish Directory is out of date and should be updated. There are many white lines and road markings in Coniston that are missing or faded to the point you cannot see them. A list was submitted to the Highways Department in 2013 but the work has still not yet been carried out. The rerouting of the Keswick to Barrow walk means going through a farmyard during lambing season and the farmers were not consulted in advance. It was suggested working with those concerned before next year's event to find an alternative route. Arrangements for the Queen's Birthday Beacon on Thursday 21 st April at 7.30pm on Maundry Bank were finalised. There are 28 French people visiting Coniston on 13 th -16 th and there is a shortage of accommodation for some people.	

	Financial Matters	
183/2016	<u>To note quarterly report from January to March 2016</u> RESOLVED: Cllrs noted the quarterly financial report from January to March 2016.	
184/2016	<u>To appoint an internal auditor</u> RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to appoint Fiona Ebbs.	
185/2016	<u>To approve the financial accounts for 2015/16</u> RESOLVED: Cllrs approved the financial accounts for 2015/16.	
186/2016	<u>To authorise the Chair to sign the Accounting Statement and Annual Governance Statement (sections 1 and 2) in the Annual Audit from BDO</u> RESOLVED: Cllrs authorised the Chair to sign the Accounting Statement and Annual Governance Statement (sections 1 and 2) in the Annual Audit from BDO	
187/2016	<u>To agree to fund the playground maintenance work required</u> RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed for Cllr Coward to go ahead and order the required maintenance work at the playground.	
188/2016	<u>To note the National Non-Domestic Rate Bill 2016/17 for the Bridge Toilets is nil</u> RESOLVED: Cllrs noted no payment due for the National Non-Domestic Rate Bill 2016/17 for the Bridge Toilets	
189/2016	<u>Receipts</u> RESOLVED: Cllrs noted the following receipts- • Bridge Toilets Collecting boxes £39.93	
190/2016	<u>Payments</u> RESOLVED: Cllrs authorised payment of the following:- • Clerk's Salary £323.45 • HMRC £80.80 • EON – Bridge Toilets (by direct debit) £11.51 • EON – Streetlights (March) £108.89 • Stephen Airey £302.50 • BHA Trees Limited £144.00 • Hygiene Cleaning Supplies Ltd £9.72	
191/2016	Correspondence RESOLVED: Cllrs noted the following e-mails:- • CALC – sludge / gravel deposits on non-agricultural land; April CALC circular; Petition about planning decisions; Election of a Parish Member to the LDNPA 2016 • LDNPA - South DA engagement event 20 April 2016 • CCC - South Lakeland Flood Fact Sheet 17th March 2016; South Lakeland Flood Factsheet 7th April 2016; Connecting Cumbria Newsletter • Hawkshead Parish Council – minutes 16 th March, agenda 19 th April • Blawith & Subberthwaite Parish Council – minutes 14 th March, agenda 11 th April • Lakes Parish Council – agenda 6 th April; minutes 2 nd March • Cumbria CVS - South Lakeland Community Newsletter e-bulletin	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Messenger - Pop Up Police Desks Are Coming To Your Area <p>To note the following correspondence has been received since the last meeting:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Lakeland District Council agenda 31 March 2016 • Letter from Royal Mail re relocation of post box on Yewdale Road • Lakeland Trails Marathon Festival 5th June 2016 • Came & Company Newsletter • Cumbria County Council Coniston & Coast Road Bus Services from 11th April 2016 	
192/2016	<p>Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 16th May 2016 7pm 	

Meeting closed at 9.45pm.

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Date

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Signed & Approved by (Chair)