

Coniston Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Coniston Parish Council held in the Reading Room, Coniston Institute, Coniston at 7.30pm on Monday 15th May 2017

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

In attendance: 13 members of the public

Minute Number		Action By
182/2017	Chairman RESOLVED: Cllrs elected the Cllr Coward Chairman for Council Year 2017/18.	
183/2017	Vice Chair RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed Cllr Carroll would be the Vice Chair for Council Year 2017/18.	
184/2017	Apologies RESOLVED: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Swyer.	
185/2017	Requests for Dispensations No requests received.	
186/2017	Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of Agenda items All Councillors as Custodian Trustees of the Coniston Institute and Ruskin Museum. Cllr Hart in respect of St Andrew's Church Bells.	
187/2017	Minutes of Meeting 24th April 2017 RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 th April 2017 are approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.	
188/2017	Portfolio Holders RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to have the portfolio holders for the following local subject areas for the year 2017/18 Playground Cllr Coward Housing Cllr Hall Bus shelters Cllr Swyer Environment Cllr Coward Street Lighting Cllr Troughton Village Maintenance Cllr Hart Highways Cllr Carroll Bridge Toilets Cllr Batty	
189/2017	Representatives to Other Bodies RESOLVED: Cllrs were appointed as representatives to other bodies:-	

	<p>Crake Website Cllr Troughton Institute and Museum Committee Cllr Swyer Coniston Water Association Cllr Troughton Coniston & Crake Partnership Cllr Carroll Local Area Partnership (LAP) Cllr Carroll Flood Forum Cllr Coward Coniston Sports & Social Centre Cllr to AGM (July) Friends of Coniston Medical Practice Cllr Troughton Bluebird Event Group Cllrs Carroll, Coward & Hall Christms Lights Cllr Troughton</p>	
190/2017	<p>Public Participation</p> <p><u>Police</u> PCSO Forrester sent her apologies and a report by e-mail. There have been two incidents of note, a theft of an ice cream sign from Coniston Gifts on Sunday 7th May and another theft of a St John's Ambulance Caravan from Hodge Close Quarry overnight on Saturday 6th May following the Keswick to Barrow walk.</p> <p><u>Mr D McGowan, Head of Development Management, Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA)</u> Mr McGowan sent his apologies and the Clerk will arrange another meeting.</p> <p><u>District Councillor – Anne Hall</u> District Cllr Hall explained there is a full Council meeting on Wednesday night.</p> <p><u>LAP meeting 10th May</u> Cllr Carroll chaired the Local Area Partnership meeting held in Coniston and Cllr Coward attended. It was a joint meeting of High Furness LAP and Grange & Cartmel LAP with the subject of rural crime and the Police Commissioner attending. Rural crime is considered to be anything outside of Kendal and Barrow. There were talks on the deer initiative and illegal off-road driving. The police will be recruiting for 85 officers.</p> <p>The LAP meetings are open to the public and it was questioned if this is publicised sufficiently.</p> <p><u>Bluebird Event Group</u> Cllrs Carroll and Hall attended the recent meeting regarding the Bluebird Event. There is a little bit of progress and Matt McDonald from Coniston Institute attended which was helpful. There is no date as yet for the event.</p> <p><u>Coniston & Torver Community Land Trust (CLT)</u> Mr A Cameron sent a report by e-mail. There will be a review of the governance of the CLT shortly and it is hoped to have the proposals in place by September. The conference on housing by South Lakeland District Council in March has led to concern being expressed from various bodies about the steady loss of vibrancy in Lakeland communities. One of the recommendations suggested following this conference was that the LDNPA should start land allocation exercises for housing and development for sites for businesses. In 2012 at the previous land allocation</p>	

	<p>Coniston had a proven hosing need for 33 homes to rent and was allocated land for 5 homes. To reduce the loss of vibrancy in communities more land allocations are required.</p> <p><u>Public Participation</u> The public had comments on highways issues and the church bells / chimes which were taken under that agenda item.</p>	
191/2017	<p>Ongoing Issues and Actions from the Last Meeting</p> <p><u>To update on reviewing Coniston Emergency Plan & obtaining resilience equipment</u> Cllr Carroll has arranged for the trees to be chopped down by the CMRT sub-station which will now allow for the shed to be placed to store resilience equipment.</p> <p><u>To update on the work to be carried out on the streetlight at Cat Bank</u> Cllr Troughton explained she has been in contract with the Contractor who is “on it”.</p>	
192/2017	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>No planning applications received.</p>	
193/2017	<p><u>Update on planning applications 7/2016/5685 & 5661 – developments off Yewdale Road Coniston</u> Mairi Lock, Planner with LDNPA confirmed that these two applications are being recommended to approve subject to legal agreements that application 7/2016/5685 (6 houses) requires the sale of land on the other site 7/2016/5661 to a housing association for affordable housing (7 houses).</p>	
194/2017	<p>RESOLVED: Cllrs noted the following Notice of Grants of Planning Application:- 7/2016/5889 – Park Coppice, Park Gate, Coniston – install 3 no camping pods with a mono-pitched roof on site of existing touring caravan pitches</p>	
195/2017	<p>Donation Box for Coniston Playground</p> <p><u>To approve placing a donation box at Coniston Playground on Lake Road</u> Cllr Coward explained that the playground is funded out of the precept and as the donations for Bridge Toilets are increasing a donation box at the playground could assist in funding this. Simon Hill from LDNPA has offered to fit a donation box. RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to a donation box and Cllr Coward will empty it.</p> <p><u>To agree having a mobile ice cream bike at the playground during busy periods</u> Simon Hill from LDNPA suggested that the mobile ice cream cycle they have at the Boating Centre could be used in the playground at busy periods with the playground receiving a share of the profits. RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed not to have a mobile ice cream bike due to concerns of too much conflict.</p>	

	Additional signage was requested to keep dogs out of the playground.	
196/2017	<p>Coniston Parish Plan Revision The Clerk has completed a draft of the Coniston Parish Plan Revision. RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to have a meeting at 7.30 Tuesday 23rd May at CMRT Base to progress this.</p>	
197/2017	<p>Highways Issues <u>To receive report from Cllrs attending a site visit with Highways about pedestrians on the A593 at Parkgate and Bowmanstead and drainage issues at Haws Bank</u> Cllrs Batty, Carroll and Hall met with Ben Davis of Highways and a local resident with local drainage knowledge.</p> <p>A variety of different ideas have been suggested about how to improve the road from the Catholic Church to the Ship Inn for pedestrians. Currently there is no safe way to get through this narrow stretch of road when walking and there are concerns about it being a fatal accident waiting to happen. A map was distributed from a member of the public showing blind spots which will be passed to Ben Davis. There are feelings the removal of the white central line and cats eyes (designed to give the impression of a narrow road and slow drivers) has not slowed traffic sufficiently in this area.</p> <p>Cllr Hall has contacted LDNPA requesting extra signage at Park Gate and the Catholic Church to encourage people to use the old railway line footpath instead.</p> <p>Any scheme suggested by Highways will not happen until funding is in place.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Cllrs will await Highways coming back with suggested solutions. A meeting will be arranged with landowners in the area to see if there is an alternative pedestrian route available including improving the railway line. The Police will be requested to attend at Haws Bank with a speed camera and the speed indicator sign to encourage traffic to slow down.</p> <p>If people see any incidents / near misses in this area they need to report them to Cllrs so they can be logged and sent to Highways.</p> <p><u>Drainage Issues at Haws Bank</u> At the same site visit the drainage systems were discussed. It was suggested asking the local fire crew to put water down some manholes to establish where the water flows to which would indicate if there is a blockage. Some of the drains could be blocked by tree roots. There are concerns about if the drainage at Line Cottage is clear.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Clerk to confirm if LDNPA can do anything about drainage as there is planning permission for a new garage and if not to send a letter to the owners to make them aware of the issues and to ensure the drains are kept clear.</p> <p><u>To update on Highways issues in the Parish</u> There are ongoing issues at The Garth with a lack of parking, non-residents going down the road and either parking or turning road and speeding. It is felt the signage is inadequate. The Garth is public highway and thus it is difficult to</p>	

	<p>prevent cars using the road. There is an 'Except for Access' sign at the start of The Garth. The new County Cllr will be contacted to take this forward for a solution to the issue and it will form part of the revised Coniston Parish Plan. It was suggested having 'Residents Only' parking permits, signs on exiting the car park to indicate to turn left away from The Garth and 'Residents Only' parking on the road like the section at the front of The Garth on Tilberthwaite Avenue. Additionally, PCSO Forrester will be asked to do road safety initiatives with children.</p>	
<p>198/2017</p>	<p>St Andrew's Church Bells – Noise Concerns</p> <p>Cllr Coward explained the background to this subject and wanted to outline the facts. Cllr Hart had raised the matter at the last meeting under Councillor Matters out of courtesy to inform people a complaint has been put into the SLDC Environmental Health Department about the level of noise from the church bells / chimes during the night causing sleep issues.</p> <p>Cllr Coward stated the Environmental Health Department has a statutory requirement to investigate the complaint, it can lead to an abatement notice being issued to instruct the parties to stop the noise within 21 days. If it goes to appeal the Magistrates Court would deal with it, deciding on what is reasonable. There is already existing case law on the subject and noise through the night is unreasonable.</p> <p>It was noted there has been comments on Facebook about this subject and the village in general has expressed a lot of interest with the story making the front page of the Westmorland Gazette.</p> <p>The Parish Council has no power to make a decision on this issue.</p> <p>SLDC Environmental Health Officer Peter Adams (peter.adams@southlakeland.gov.uk) will receive e-mails on the matter if people have any comments to make. He will also require people's permission to release their details to use these comments as evidence, if required. He hopes to be in a position to conclude his investigation by the end of the month.</p> <p>Mrs S Hart read a statement about the issue from their perspective. When they moved into the Yewdale Inn in 2013 the clock was broken and later that year it was fixed. Since then they have had discussions with the local church about how to resolve the issue although a solution did not occur. In March this year Mr and Mrs Hart contacted the Environmental Health Department (https://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/your-environment/nuisance/). It is now a private legal matter. Since Mr and Mrs Hart took over the running of the Yewdale they have made every effort to support the community:- holding quizzes to raise money for many different community groups.</p> <p>There have been no timings suggested so far for when the church bells / chimes would be stopped overnight, if this is required. The decision will be made by the Environmental Health Department and their laws, not the majority or minority of people and their opinions. If there is proof of a statutory nuisance then appropriate action will need to be taken.</p>	

	<p>No one present knew if the Coniston church bells / chimes originally were every 15 minutes. Today they are every hour.</p> <p>It was requested that the facts of the situation be put to the people of Coniston to keep them informed.</p> <p><i>Cllr Hart left the meeting.</i></p>	
<p>199/2017</p>	<p>Public Access Issues at Shepherds Bridge Simon Hill (Area Ranger – National Trust) has contacted the Parish Council as there has been an informal path developed beginning where the public right of way at Shepherds Bridge enters the field and running through the National Trust woodland alongside Yewdale Beck before exiting back onto grazing land further up Yewdale. Unfortunately, people using this unconsented path have begun leaving hurdles open resulting in livestock getting out and mixing. The National Trust has taken action to both fence off the bottom of the route at Shepherds Bridge to prevent access and put signs on the hurdles.</p> <p>However, the new fence has been cut and the hurdles forced open. If anyone has any knowledge of who has caused the damage please contact Simon (015394 41172 / 07747532523, e-mail: Simon.Hill@nationaltrust.org.uk)</p> <p>It was noted that this footpath has been used for years and does this create a precedent? It was questioned if kissing gates could be put up. RESOLVED: Clerk to contact Simon Hill with these queries.</p>	
<p>200/2017</p>	<p>Councillor Matters It has been requested the vegetation on the cliff face on Old Furness Road be removed, however, LDNPA only carry out this task every 5 years and it is not yet due.</p> <p>The recent additional signage on dog fouling has been positive with people noticing less dog mess and seeing more people picking it up.</p> <p>There is a seat in memory of Arthur Graves which has the stone wall crumbling around it.</p> <p>Sara Spicer from LDNPA has been contacted about the footpath being water logged at Park Gate towards Park Gate and also the section by the gates at the bottom of Lake Road by the John Ruskin School field.</p> <p>The X12 bus service has bought two new buses. The fundraising group is down to about £1,000.00 and a craft fair is being organised on 28th with the profit going to X12. Cllr Hall has recently found out about two funds to apply to.</p> <p>The meetings held for the Bluebird Event Group have not paid for the hire of the CMRT Base.</p> <p>Yew Tree Tarn was within 4-5 days of having to carry out a fish rescue due to the</p>	

	<p>recent dry weather. There were 7 herons the other day taking fish from the tarn. The issue is that the dam is leaking and the National Trust will not pay to fix it. However, there are methods that are not too expensive that could fix it.</p> <p>The residents of Collingwood Close have drawn up a petition requesting ‘Residents Only’ parking signs. It was noted that people parking here park on the pavement meaning wheelchairs are unable to pass on the pavements. There are concerns if the signs go up where the bowling and cricket club members would park for matches as they currently use Collingwood Close.</p> <p>A sign for Coniston was requested at Tarn Hows on exiting at ??????</p> <p>It was suggested having Hawkshead Old Road one way due to the parking on one side.</p>																							
<p>201/2017</p> <p>202/2017</p> <p>203/2017</p> <p>204/2017</p>	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p><u>To consider Lengthsman tender documents</u> Highways have now responded to the Clerk’s e-mail of 22nd March to say their legal team are reviewing the draft Lengthsman Agreement. It was noted the Clerk used an Agreement originally from Cumbria County Council. A full response is awaited from Highways.</p> <p><u>Internal Auditor</u> RESOLVED: Cllrs noted there were no issues following the internal audit.</p> <p><u>Receipts</u> RESOLVED: Cllrs noted the following receipts:-</p> <table data-bbox="279 1205 1236 1317"> <tr> <td>SLDC Precept</td> <td>£19,438.46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SLDC Grant</td> <td>£1,061.54</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bridge Toilets</td> <td>£148.27</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Payments</u> RESOLVED: Cllrs authorised payment of the following:-</p> <table data-bbox="279 1429 1300 1736"> <tr> <td>• Clerk’s Salary</td> <td>£326.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• HMRC</td> <td>£81.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Stephen Airey</td> <td>£254.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• EON – Bridge Toilets</td> <td>£14.43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• EON – Bridge Toilets</td> <td>£13.23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Coniston Institute (room hire)</td> <td>£42.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Cumbria Association of Local Councils</td> <td>£218.28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Came & Company (insurance renewal)</td> <td>£956.45</td> </tr> </table>	SLDC Precept	£19,438.46	SLDC Grant	£1,061.54	Bridge Toilets	£148.27	• Clerk’s Salary	£326.50	• HMRC	£81.60	• Stephen Airey	£254.50	• EON – Bridge Toilets	£14.43	• EON – Bridge Toilets	£13.23	• Coniston Institute (room hire)	£42.00	• Cumbria Association of Local Councils	£218.28	• Came & Company (insurance renewal)	£956.45	
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<p>205/2017</p>	<p>Correspondence RESOLVED: Cllrs noted the following e-mails:-</p> <ul data-bbox="279 1848 1356 2022" style="list-style-type: none"> • CALC – Paperwork for Next District Association - Thursday 15th June, from 7pm at SLDC Chamber • SLDC - Invite to Parish Councillor-Code of Conduct briefing at SLDC-23 May 2017; 14 June 2017-Code of Conduct Briefing • LAP - LAP meeting on Rural Crime and Policing in Cumbria: Wednesday 10 May, 																							

	<p>6.30pm Coniston Reading Room</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumbria County Council - Crime Writers Ulverston; Keswick to Barrow Charity Walk Road Closure and Legal Order information • Lakes Parish Council – minutes 5th April; agenda AGM 10th May • Torver Parish Council – minutes 6th April, agenda 4th May • Blawith & Subberthwaite Parish Council – minutes 3rd April; agenda AGM 8th May • Skelwith Parish Council – minutes March; agenda 2 May • Guide Dogs - Guide Dogs Coniston Challenge - 16th September 2017 • Cumbria CVS - South Lakes Community News 25/04/17 • Westmorland Red Squirrels - E-News <p>RESOLVED: Cllrs noted the following correspondence received since the last meeting:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine May 2017 	
206/2017	<p>Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 19th June 2017 7pm 	

The Chair thanked the public for their attendance.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm.

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Date

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Signed & Approved by (Chair)