



ANNUAL REPORT & Accounts

April 2017 – March 2018

Thank You's and Achievements of the Year

The Parish Council would like to thank:-

- Cllr Hall for her hard work and fundraising in keeping the X12 bus service going between Coniston and Ulverston.
- PCSO Ross 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 Matt Brereton for attending our meetings
- Coniston Christmas Lights Committee for the 2017 display.
- Coniston Sports & Social Centre for organising the village fireworks display
- Those involved in running and organising the clubs and societies in the village that make the village the vibrant and thriving community it is.
- Helen Glaister and Lesley McCartney for organising the Hatchet evening at Coniston Institute which was enjoyed by all
- The members of the Coniston Institute committee for their hard work and the staff at the Ruskin Museum
- The volunteers at Coniston Tourist Information Centre which continues to be volunteer run and is a wealth of local information
- The Lakeland 100 event for donating to Coniston Amenities Fund to benefit local charities.

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 at Brow Steps and Days Bank
- 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 from Coniston 14 event in March to the end of Records Week in November.
- Reporting numerous potholes, blocked drains, issues on the roads and faulty streetlights to Cumbria County Council
- Appointing contractors to clear verges in the village
- 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
- Coniston Business Forum

Chairman's Report 2017 – 18

It really doesn't seem like a year since I wrote my last Chairs report but when I look back over the last 12 months it brings home what has been achieved. Coniston remains a vibrant and thriving community, not without its challenges, but ultimately a very special place to live.

The Parish Council continues to support and represent the people of Coniston and has made a number of notable achievements over the last year which are outlined in this report. As Government funding and budgets are increasingly tightened it is important that we seek to achieve the best value from the funding that we have. A significant contribution to our Amenities fund in the last year was a donation of £5,000 from the Lakeland 100. This money has been distributed to some deserving organisations in the village and the benefits of this will be enjoyed by all residents, be it in improved sporting facilities or cultural events.

The Parish Council supports many local amenities, including the provision of some street lighting, maintenance of the children's playing field, maintaining the bridge toilets and clearing verges to name a few.

The Parish Council acknowledges the continued dedication of Cllr Hall and others in fundraising and campaigning to keep the X12 bus service running between Ulverston and Coniston, without this commitment a vital service could be lost. In fact Cllr Hall's long standing dedication to her community has been recognised at the highest level with her being awarded an MBE, well done Anne from us all. Also, achieving the accolade of an MBE was Malcolm Grindrod for his services to the Mountain Rescue, I am sure that everyone would join the Parish Council in extending their warm congratulations to him on this well-deserved achievement.

Coniston residents from the past have also been remembered with the Centenary of World War 1, those from the village who fought and lost their lives, and those who returned. A plaque dedicated to James Hewitson and his acts of valour that earned him a Victoria Cross is placed in St Andrews Church Yard, a reminder to all of the great bravery and sacrifices made in the defence of our freedom.

I personally would like to thank all the councillors that represent Coniston so well, voluntarily giving up their time to support their community, I share their frustration when we feel that the voice of our Parish is not being heard, but we will continue to provide that voice. I extend a special thanks to Janette, our Parish Clerk who is invaluable to myself and other councillors, Janette keeps us all on track with her specialist knowledge, dedication and commitment to the role.

There are so many people in Coniston who deserve thanks, they run clubs and societies, raise money for great causes and put on fantastic events – too many to name personally, but thank you, your work does not go unnoticed. I would encourage everyone to get involved with these organisations, it helps to keep them alive and supports a diverse range of activities.

There have been some fantastic events throughout the year looking at old photographs and videos of Coniston's residents past and present, this keeps the memory alive of so many people that have lived in Coniston. I hope this can be developed throughout the next year, hearing the stories that these photographs generate are as much a part of our collective history as the buildings and the beautiful landscapes we live amongst.

A number of our residents have lost family and friends over the last year and I think this understandably focuses our thoughts on what really matters to us, and what is truly

important in our lives. A good friend of mine once said 'Coniston does funerals really well'. When you look into that statement I think it emphasises the special sense of community and collective support that exists here, at a time of great loss you really feel that warmth of spirit from people around you, something that you do not get everywhere.

There have also been babies born in our area and much needed new homes on St Andrews Close are now being occupied by local families, so the circle of life and the future of our community continues.

There are exciting and interesting opportunities ahead. The Lake District now has World Heritage Status and we need to ensure that the impact of this is a positive one for our village, numerous events are coming to our area including the Tour of Britain where the eyes of the nation will be on us, and we all hope to welcome Bluebird back in the near future.

Coniston is a special place to call home, and I am extremely proud to be able to represent the community as Chair of the Parish Council. There will be challenges ahead for us all but in working together I am sure that any of these challenges can be overcome. We as a strong community, make Coniston much more than a place on the map!

Tracy

Summary of Year 2017 – 18

24th April – 7 Cllrs, PCSO E Forrester, County Cllr D Fletcher, Matt McDonald – Project Director Coniston Institute and 3 members of the public

- Talk from Matt McDonald about the 2 year post he has just started involving Grizedale Arts, Institute & Museum
- Cllrs are working with SLDC to reduce dog fouling issues
- Two applicants for the Shop Front Grant Scheme and £250.00 was granted to each of Coniston Sports & Social Centre and Coniston Newsagents

15th May – Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Coniston Parish Council Meeting – 6 Cllrs, 13 members of the public, Simon Hill (Area Ranger for National Trust South Lakes)

- Cllr Coward was elected Chair
- It was agreed to put a donation box at Coniston playground on Lake Road.
- Cllrs had a site visit with Highways about pedestrians on the A593 at Parkgate & Bowmanstead and drainage issues at Haws Bank and Highways will look at possible solutions
- It was noted the Parish Council has no power to make a decision of the issue of noise concerns over St Andrew's Church Bells.

19th June – 4 Cllrs, 5 members of the public and John Moffat (General Manager South Lakes National Trust)

- Talk from John Moffat on local updates on National Trust including the Greenburn Hydro Scheme
- Cllrs agreed to have a Parish Walk on 29th June around Collingwood Close & Little Moss
- Coniston Parish Plan completed.

17th July – 4 Cllrs, 3 members of the public, Dave McGowan (Head of Development Management – Lake District National Park Authority)

- Talk from Dave McGowan in response to Cllrs concerns they are not listened to in their responses to planning applications
- A resilience shed with equipment is now in place behind Coniston Mountain Rescue Base.
- Cllrs reported on the issues they found on the Parish Walk
- Coniston War Memorial has been added to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest
- Coniston will be receiving a VC plaque in 2018 for Lance Corporal James Hewitson
- Reports were received of noise during the night for the event of the Montane Lakeland 100/50 races
- Cllr Jeff Hart resigned.

21st August – 5 Cllrs, Charlotte Hall (South Cumbria Rivers Trust / Coniston & Crake Catchment Partnership), Carol Last (Cumbria County Council), PCSO E Forrester, County Cllr M Brereton and 4 members of the public

- Talk from Charlotte Hall with an update on the Conserving Coniston and Crake Heritage Lottery Funding project
- Carol Last explained how she could assist with arrangements for receiving the VC plaque next year.

8th September Extraordinary Meeting – 5 Cllrs, Mr P Johnston (Director of Coniston Coppermines Ltd), Mr H Tony (Steven Abbott Associates) and 24 members of the public

- Planning application for a car park on Lands Field, Yewdale Road was discussed.

18th September – 5 Cllrs and 5 members of the public

- Issues of speeding at Haws Bank and The Garth were discussed along with 'Residents Only' parking scheme at The Garth
- Cllrs agreed to co-opt Adrian Thompson as a Councillor
- Cllrs discussed what should happen to the Campbell Memorial as the two trees need to be removed due to their condition
- The problems following recent events were noted.
- The external audit was received with no issues arising.

16th October – 5 Cllrs, Marc Laithwaite & Terry Gilpin (Montane Lakeland 50/100), Graham Nicolson (South Lakeland District Council) and 5 members of the public

- The issues of noise at the Montane event in July were discussed and the organisers will make arrangements for additional marshalls and signage
- Dave McGowan sent an update following his attendance at the meeting in July
- The Campbell Memorial site was discussed with Graham Nicolson and the area will be left following the removal of the two trees
- The action points for Coniston Parish Plan were discussed

30th October – Extraordinary Meeting – 5 Cllrs

- Planning application with amended plans for a car park at Lands Field, Yewdale Road, Coniston were discussed.

20th November – 6 Cllrs, Lisa Keys (Coniston Coppermines Project), Gail Staton & Simon Hill (Lake District National Park Authority), County Cllr M Brereton and 7 members of the public

- Lisa Keys gave an update on the Coniston Coppermines Project
- Gail Staton and Simon Hill explained about proposals to extend Coniston Boating Centre workshop facilities
- There is no update from Cumbria County Council on a Lengthsman Agreement
- New road signs have been agreed for Collingwood Close, The Banks, Ruskin Avenue and Old Furness Road

- Grants given:-

Coniston & Torver Parochial Church Council	£	100.00
Coniston Institute	£	500.00
Ruskin Museum	£	300.00
Coniston Community Development Centre	£	100.00
Coniston Sports & Social Centre (fireworks)	£	250.00
VC Event	£	500.00
North West Air Ambulance	£	100.00
Great North Air Ambulance	£	100.00

18th December – 5 Cllrs, Matt McDonald (Project Director Coniston Institute) and 1 member of the public

- Cllrs noted Cllr Hall has just received her MBE in London
- Talk from Matt McDonald on the Valley Project and update on the other projects.
- Cllrs had no objections to the road closures for Coniston 14 event
- Cllrs support the speed record attempt by an electric boat on Coniston

15th January – 5 Cllrs, PCSO D Ross and 2 members of the public

- The ceremony for the VC plaque for Lance Corporal James Hewitson will be held on 26th April
- The new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) rules that come into force on 25th May were discussed
- The precept was agreed to remain the same for 2018/19.

29th January – 6 Cllrs

- Four planning applications were discussed

19th February – 6 Cllrs, Simon Hill (Commercial Property Manager – Lake District National Park Authority) and 2 members of the public

- Talk from Simon Hill about recent changes in the LDNPA car parks and the move from Park with Ease back to pay & display machines
- Various ideas were put forward for the Campbell Memorial area following the removal of the two trees
- Updates on various highways issues
- A headstone for Edgar Woolgar will be taken forward by the Freemasons.

19th March – 6 Cllrs, County Cllr M Brereton and 3 members of the public

- Cllrs considered the future of Coniston Institute in light of Matt McDonald's recent resignation

Summary of Accounts 2017 – 18

Receipts	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
SLDC Precept	19,438.46	19,080.91	16,835.76
SLDC Parish Grant	1,061.54	919.09	1,164.24
LDNPA Neighbourhood Plan			1,032.19
South Lakeland District Councillor	200.00		250.00
Bridge Toilets Collecting Boxes	1,862.36	1,650.97	330.76
LDNPA Bridge Toilets			170.56
VAT Refund	1,076.06	632.57	1,579.81
EON Credit			12.57
Bank interest	31.02	43.32	33.27
Coniston Sports & Social Club - fireworks	1,725.00	1,612.50	2,250.00
Coniston Christmas Lights	2,051.04	2,246.50	677.10
South Lakeland District Council (Shop Front Scheme)		500.00	
LDNPA Coniston Parish Plan		250.00	
Other	264.34		
TOTAL	27,709.82	26,935.86	24,336.26

Expenditure	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Clerk's Salary	5,649.60	5,655.14	4,961.99
Admin	1,793.84	1,269.30	1,491.46
Maintenance (bus shelter cleaning & grass cutting)	1,737.80	1,744.80	1,771.00
Street lighting	1,616.59	1,384.64	2,003.12
s137	35.00	35.00	35.00
Playground	-	1,008.97	-
Powers & Duties (grants)	1,700.00	2,100.00	2,250.00
Insurance	956.45	916.77	878.68
Bridge Toilets	4,103.25	4,836.70	3,438.32
Neighbourhood Plan	-	101.99	1,067.35
Repairs	-	-	242.00
Coniston Sports & Social Club fireworks	2,075.00	1,935.00	2,700.00
Verge Maintenance	537.56	-	-
Shop Front Grant	750.00	-	-
Coniston Christmas Lights	2,051.04	2,515.80	744.52
Coniston Parish Plan		312.00	
Laptop for Clerk	450.00		
Street light repairs at Brow Steps & Days Bank	2352.00		
TOTAL	25,808.13	23,816.11	21,583.44

Bank balance at start of year	6,302.25	3,182.50	429.68
Income for Year	27,709.82	26,935.86	24,336.26
Expenditure for Year	25,808.13	23,816.11	21,583.44

Closing balance for Year	8,218.28	6,3205.25	3,182.50
Allocated funding	500.00	554.50	54.50
Parish Council balance	7,718.28	5,747.75	3,128.00

Precept for 2018 - 19

The precept for 2018-19 remains at £20,500.00.

Planning Applications 2017 - 18

The Lake District National Park Authority Planning Department asks Parish Councils for their views on planning applications which have to be given within certain time limits. The Parish Councils views can be:-

- Support
- No objections
- Objection

Reasons, material planning considerations, can be stated for these views. The Coniston Neighbourhood Plan along with the Parish Council's views and LDNPA policies are taken into account when the LDNPA make a planning decision. The LDNPA either delegate the decision for the planning application to a Team Leader in the Planning Department or it goes to the Development Control Committee for the decision to be made.

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

Planning Application Number & Site	Description	Coniston Parish Council Response	LDNPA Decision
7/2017/5227 - Hollin Bank Farm, Coniston	Conversion of redundant two storey barn into a residential property for use either as a holiday let to supplement the farm income or for a home for a local resident	Object	Granted
7/2017/5421 - Heathwaite, Land south west of the reservoir, Coniston	The proposed works involve the installation of: 1 x 12m High replica telegraph pole; 2 x Antennas (within GRP shroud); 1 x Transmission Dishes (600mm) ; 1 x Satellite Dish (1200mm) ; 2 x Equipment Cabinet (1 x Blenheim & 1 x Link AC); Associated ancillary equipment	Support	Granted
7/2017/5224 - Recreation Ground, Yewdale Road, Coniston	Erection of replacement cricket pavilion	Support	Granted
7/2017/5183 - National Trust	Ticket office/visitor	Object	Refused

Ticket Office, Lake Road, Coniston	reception hub		
7/2017/5366 – John Ruskin School, Lake Road, Coniston	Erection of single storey infill extension to south elevation of existing school building. Replacement & renewal of existing glazed screens & windows to elevations of school buildings. Associated works to create level access to existing door openings to school buildings & proposed external ramp to sports area	Support	Withdrawn
7/2017/5535 - Lands Field, Yewdale Road, Coniston	Creation of coach and car park, and erection of facilities building and mixed use restaurant and shop (A3/A1) on ground floor	Object	Refused
7/2017/5575 - The Ruskin Museum, 13-15 Yewdale Road, Coniston	Installation of an information kiosk and community bread oven	No objections	Granted
7/2017/5566 - Gatesgarth, Coniston	Demolition of existing building and replace with contemporary four bedroom home	Object	Granted
7/2017/5622 - 8, Beck Yeat, Coniston	Two storey rear extension and alterations to front elevation	No objections	Granted
7/2017/5556 - Knipe Ground, Coniston	Replace existing timber window frames with bespoke timber window frames	No objections	
7/2017/5713 - 4 Lake View, Bowmanstead, Coniston	Single storey lean-to kitchen extension to side of dwelling	No objections	Granted
7/2017/5742 - Hill Top, Haws Bank, Coniston	Create a new parallel parking area across the road from the main property, with open access and permeable surface	No objections	Granted
7/2017/5736 - Coniston Park Coppice Caravan Site, Park Gate, Coniston	7 no. camping pods and shed	No objections	Granted
7/2017/5772 - Fell Side, Little Arrow, Coniston	Single storey rear extension and renovation of annex to front of property	No objections	
7/2017/5771 - Church of the Sacred Heart, Haws Bank, Torver Road, Coniston	Provide new car park gates	No objections	Granted
7/2017/5866 - Howe Farm, Days Bank, Coniston	Use of land for siting of pod for use as holiday letting	Object	Granted

	accommodation		
7/2018/5005 - Coniston Boating Centre, Lake Road, Coniston	Extension to existing building and alterations to container area with construction of workshop and 2 containers	No objections	Granted
7/2018/5008 - 1, St Andrews Close, Coniston	Vary condition no 8 of planning approval ref 7/2016/5152 to reflect the drainage redesign	No comment	Granted
7/2018/5033 - Bowmanstead Studio, Bowmanstead, Coniston	Internal alterations - demolition of flat roof dormer and construction of new dormer - repair, replacement and addition of doors and windows - re-plumbing and re-wiring of entire property (planning application)	Support	Granted
7/2018/5034 - Bowmanstead Studio, Bowmanstead, Coniston	Internal alterations - demolition of flat roof dormer and construction of new dormer - repair, replacement and addition of doors and windows - re-plumbing and re-wiring of entire property (listed building consent)	Support	Granted
7/2018/5134 - 8, Beck Yeat, Coniston	Two storey rear extension and alterations to front elevation not in accordance with condition no. 2 previously attached to planning approval reference 7/2017/5622 to allow use of Anthracite Grey uPVC	No objections	

Your Councillors are:-

Tracy Coward

Jeff Carroll

Anne Hall

Ken Batty

Heather Troughton

Maria Swyer

Adrian Thompson

Chair

Vice Chair

Councillor since June 2015 (appointed uncontested)

Councillor since May 2016 (appointed uncontested)

Councillor since June 1987 (appointed uncontested)

Councillor since May 2012 (appointed uncontested)

Councillor since Feb 2015 (appointed uncontested)

Councillor since May 2016 (appointed uncontested)

Councillors since (co-opted)

Contact Details

All Parish Councillors can be contacted via the Clerk:-

Janette Carroll, 8 Old Furness Road, Coniston, Cumbria LA21 8HU

Tel: 015394 41713

E-mail: parish@coniston.info

Website www.coniston.info

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.

Please remember that all Parish Council meetings are public meetings and you are welcome to come along. The dates of future meetings are either on our website or on the noticeboard by the Co-op.

Relevant Information

Coniston Parish Council website (including Parish Diary with events) - www.coniston.info

Cumbria County Council – www.cumbria.gov.uk

Reporting Highways Issues (including potholes, road markings, street lights and blocked drains - <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/roads-transport/highways-pavements/reporting-problem-on-highway/WDM/default.asp>

Highways Hotline Tel: 0300 303 2992 (answer phone service evenings, weekends and public holidays)

South Lakeland District Council – www.southlakeland.gov.uk

Reporting Dog fouling - <https://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/your-environment/dogs/dog-fouling/>

Cumbria Choice Based Letting

To register for re-housing with Cumbria Choice (includes Council and Housing Association Properties Locally)
on the <https://www.cumbriachoice.org.uk/Data/ASPPages/1/30.aspx>

Breaches of Planning (including local occupancy clauses)

Most breaches of planning should be reported to Lake District National Park Authority (planning@lakedistrict.gov.uk or Tel: 01539 724 555. Some local occupancy clauses are dealt with by South Lakeland District Council Legal Department (customer.services@southlakeland.gov.uk or Tel: 01539 733 333)

Non-emergency Police number – 101

For reporting all non-emergency issues, including illegal off-road driving and cars parked causing obstruction.