

## Coniston Parish Council

### Minutes of the Meeting of Coniston Parish Council held in the Reading Room, Coniston Institute, Coniston at 7pm on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**Present:** Cllr T Coward (Chair)  
Cllrs – J R Carroll, A Hall, A Thompson & H Troughton  
Clerk – M Dearnley

**In attendance:** Two members of the public

Minute Number		Action By
272/2019	<b>Apologies</b> Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Batty.	
273/2019	<b>Requests for Dispensations</b> No requests received.	
274/2019	<b>Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of Agenda items</b> All Councillors as Custodian Trustees of the Coniston Institute and Ruskin Museum.	
275/2019	<b>Minutes of Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> August 2019</b> <b>RESOLVED:</b> that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 <sup>th</sup> August 2019 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.	
276/2019	<b>Public Participation</b> <u>Lakeland Trails</u> Mr P Blaylock addressed the Council. This year will mark the fifteenth year that the event has been held in Coniston and the organisers remain committed to supporting the local community. There are a range of events held throughout the year with varying distances and routes. The race to be held on the 5 <sup>th</sup> October will have just over 1000 runners.  The Council heard of steps the organisers have taken to establish a model of continuous improvement in relation to the impact that the races have on the villagers and on the environment. Mr Blaylock provided a number of examples of how this is being worked toward, including their active encouragement of car-sharing in an attempt to reduce the number of cars being brought into the village, leafleting individual houses and business, and to encourage feedback after events to inform evaluation and so improve future events.  Cllr Carrol suggested the consideration of reorganisation of car parking at Coniston Old Hall in a more efficient manner, Mr Blaylock will give the suggestion consideration for events in 2020.	

Mr Blaylock stated that there are twenty paid crew and a large number of volunteer marshals who work to minimise the impact that events have on the residents and services in Coniston and the surrounding area.

Councillors expressed appreciation for organisation of the events and thanked Mr Blaylock for being so open to communication with all stakeholders.

#### County Councillor

County Councillor Brereton submitted a written report:

- there is a timeframe in place to address most outstanding major highways issues before the end of the year,
- he is leading a strategy to consider the management, resilience and maintenance of the A590 which, although a Highways England road, has serious issues in relation to 'rat runs' and how the traffic is managed in the event of accidents.

#### District Councillors

Councillor Hall noted that telecommunications equipment had been affixed to the rear of a road sign and this would potentially be something more common.

#### Coniston & Torver Community Land Trust

Mr Campbell reported that there is nothing to bring to the Council's attention this month.

Councillor Hall identified an issue relating to Castle and Coasts Housing Association which had purchased land in the village for affordable housing, but which had not yet begun construction.

The Council will contact Jackie Ratcliffe, Lake District National Park, to ask whether dispensation has been granted in relation to the self-build at Holly Howe Close, Far End, Coniston to facilitate the building process. Castle and Coasts Housing Association will be contacted to enquire into the anticipated start date to build affordable housing at Far End.

#### Police

No report scheduled for this meeting.

#### National Trust

No report.

#### Cllrs attending Coniston Institute Committee Meeting

Issues included:

- Trustees were briefed by Grizedale Arts on the adoption of a working agreement between the Coniston Institute and third parties when undertaking work on behalf of, or in conjunction with, the Institute.
- There was a discussion on improving staffing policies at the Institute.
- Trustees acknowledged the retirement of Vicky Sloe, Museum Director and Curator after 26 years of services. Councillors agreed to write to send a letter of thanks to Vicky to thank her for her services.

	<p><u>Public Participation</u> None.</p>	
<b>277/2019</b>	<p><b>Update on Ongoing Issues and Actions from Last Meeting</b></p> <p><u>To update on the SLDC tree planting scheme</u> Cllr Coward reported that SLDC have conducted an assessment, as a result one horse chestnut and four rowan trees will be planted.</p> <p><u>To update on the refurbishment of benches around the village.</u> Positive feedback from the public has been received in relation to the work renovating benches.</p>	
<b>278/201</b>	<p><b>Planning Applications</b></p> <p>7/2019/5528 – Coniston Park Coppice Caravan Site, Park Gate, Coniston</p> <p>Installation of camping pods without complying with conditions attached to planning permission (reference 7/2016/5889) Minor amendment to allow larger type of camping pod with pitched roof. <b>RESOLVED:</b> The Council raised no objections to this application.</p>	
<b>279/2019</b>	<p>Councillors noted the following Notice of Grant of Planning Permission</p> <p>7/2019/5203 - Land adjacent to Yewdale Road, Holly How Close, Yewdale Road, Coniston, LA21 8BZ</p>	
<b>280/2019</b>	<p>Councillors noted the following Notice of Grant of Planning Permission</p> <p>7/2019/5322 - Thwaite Farm Cottage, Coniston, Coniston, LA21 8AJ</p>	
<b>281/2019</b>	<p><b>Coniston Tidy-up and Highways</b></p> <p><u>To update on the work carried out by the Coniston Lengthsman.</u></p> <p>Mr Workman had been busy during the summer months and is preparing to reset the cracked paving stones by the Ruskin Institute. Other tasks which require his attention include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The flags on the Brow steps needs sweeping off and edges repainting,</li> <li>• Saplings growing along Coppermines Lane identified as an issue.</li> <li>• Cllr Hall to speak with Mr Workman regarding the railings on the bridge require straightening</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that the tasks originally identified as being most urgent for Mr Workman to address have been resolved and that it would be useful to identify a new set of tasks which he can address in forthcoming months.</p> <p>Councillors noted the positive impact Mr Workman is having around the village.</p> <p><u>To update on the response from supermarkets regarding deliveries on The Banks</u> None.</p>	

	<p><u>To update on other Highways issues in the Parish</u> Councillor Carrol had contacted County Councillor Brereton with a list of highways issues relating to road markings which need to be reinstated. It was noted that several issues were to be included in a Traffic Regulation Order, but work still hasn't commenced.</p> <p>It was noted that traffic wardens have patrolled in Coniston on a few occasions during the summer months. This was welcomed, however, Councillors noted that they confine themselves to the village centre and they need to extend their remit further to include other busy roads such as Lake Road and Station Road where parking can be a problem. The Council will contact the traffic warden service at Cumbria County Council to raise this issue with them.</p> <p>The facility to report a wide range of highways issues such as pot holes, faulty street lighting, and missing manhole covers on the Cumbria County Council Portal was discussed. Councillor Troughton will publicise the portal on the Council Facebook page to improve public awareness of their own ability to report matters.</p>	
282/2019	<p><b>Parish Councillor Vacancy</b> The Council has received one formal application for the vacancy. The Council read Mr Airey's application to become a parish councillor. They were most impressed by his enthusiasm and his willingness to work for the people of Coniston. <b>RESOLVED:</b> To co-opt J Airey to sit on the Council until May 2020.</p>	
283/2019	<p><b>Playground</b> Cllr Coward reported on the issues contained in the annual safety inspection report, compiled by RoSPA Playsafe Limited, on the condition of the Lake Road Playground. <b>RESOLVED:</b> To note the content of the report.</p>	
284/2019	<p>To consider the remedial work identified in the report's recommendations. <b>RESOLVED:</b> To jet wash the path and to commission the repair of work on the swings.</p>	
285/2019	<p><b>Coniston Bye-laws</b> Cllr Coward reported on progress relating to the funding of the £2,500 cost, amending the Coniston Bye-laws. <b>RESOLVED:</b> Councillors noted the update. Cllr Coward to contact LDNPA to ask that they might send an invoice. The Council will raise invoices to the Business Forum, the local contributor and SLDC to collect their contributions.</p>	
286/2019	<p><b>Bridge Toilets</b> Cllr Coward identified the need for the Bridge Toilets to be refurbished and the opportunity that this afforded to design the toilets to have a lower environmental impact than at present. She has had discussions with a builder who has had experience working on similar schemes elsewhere within the National Park. He will prepare estimates to cover the development more environmentally friendly toilets. Other quotes will be secured from other similarly experienced builders. Site visits being conducted in the forthcoming weeks.</p>	

	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> For further investigatory work and quotes to be conducted and reported back to future meetings.</p> <p>Cllr Hall reported that she has collected £287.86 from the voluntary collection so far this month.</p>	
<b>287/2019</b>	<p><b>Councillor Matters</b></p> <p>Councillor Troughton had attended a meeting of the Friends of Coniston Medical Practice. Issues raised included the proposed housing development near the practice, the successful award of an NHS contract, and a Care Quality Commission meeting. It was noted that the practice does not intend to amalgamate with practices in other villages.</p> <p>There will be a quiz to support the Amenities Fund at the Coniston Sports and Social Club on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> September.</p> <p>Councillor Hall raised the issue of a National Park meeting to discuss the use of Green Lanes. Although individual councillors have differing opinions on the matter being discussed the Council does not have a position in relation to this issue at this time.</p> <p>Cllr Coward has reported the issue of repeated dog fouling to the appropriate authorities. She will contact the Environment Agency to make them aware that saplings along the river near the forge need to be cut back. More sandbags need to be ordered.</p> <p>Councillor Coward noted that the deadline date for submission of bids to the Small Grants Fund has been extended. Both she and Councillor Carrol will investigate potential bids to facilitate the creation of wild flower areas and other environmental works.</p>	
<b>288/2019</b>	<p><b>Financial Matters</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Councillors noted the successful conclusion of the external audit with no matters arising.</p>	
<b>289/2019</b>	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Councillors authorised payment of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clerk’s Salary £320.75</li> <li>• HMRC £80.00</li> <li>• EON – street lighting (August) £194.07</li> <li>• EON – Bridge Toilets (August) £13.92</li> <li>• Lakesloos – Bridge Toilets and Bus Stops £4,848.00</li> <li>• ROSPA Play Safety £103.20</li> <li>• Andrew Ransome £190.00</li> <li>• Archie Workman (July and August) £255.90</li> <li>• PKF Littlejohn (external audit) £240.00</li> </ul>	
<b>290/2019</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Councillors noted the following e-mails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Moffat, National Trust, information relating to small grants fund</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Westmorland Red Squirrel News, announcing Red Squirrel Week during the week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 and the Grasmere to Grizedale Project</li> <li>• RoSPA Playsafe report on Lake Road Playground</li> <li>• Minutes of the Friends of Coniston Medical Practice</li> <li>• SLDC Training and briefing session ‘Becoming an effective Member/Code of Conduct’</li> <li>• Rural Services Network Bulletin</li> <li>• LDNPA Report on the management of unsealed public roads at Tilberthwaite and High Oxen Fell</li> <li>• Invitation to attend a celebration recognising the completion of 8 Greenwood Tracks and their handover to the Rusland Horizons Trust. To be held at 4:30pm, 27<sup>th</sup> September at Grizedale Information Centre Café.</li> <li>• Consultation on the development of 5G mobile coverage in rural areas.</li> <li>• Torver Parish Council: agenda 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019, minutes 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and minutes 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019</li> <li>• Hawkshead Parish Council: agenda 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019</li> <li>• Blawith &amp; Subberthwaite: agenda 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019, minutes 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019</li> <li>• Lakes Parish Council: agenda 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019, minutes 7<sup>th</sup> August 2019</li> <li>• LDNPA - Consultation on temporary closure of Rights of Way for Grizedale Stages Rally and Malcolm Wilson Rally on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and 14<sup>th</sup> March 2020.</li> <li>• Invitation to attend CALC Lakeland District Association of Parish Councils AGM on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019 from 7pm at Gilpin Bridge Inn, near Levens.</li> <li>• Hawkshead Grammar School Foundation (HGSF) Charity providing grants to younger people aged 16-25 resident in ancient parish of Hawkshead to help with education and training expenses. This year the grants will also cover transportation costs for 16-18 year olds studying A-levels or 6<sup>th</sup> form college courses.</li> <li>• The Rural Bulletin</li> </ul>	
291/2019	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Councillors noted the following correspondence received by post:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clerks &amp; Councils Direct September 2019</li> </ul>	
292/2019	<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019 at 7pm at the Reading Room, Coniston Institute</li> </ul>	

Meeting closed at 8:37pm.

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Date

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Signed & Approved by (Chair)