

Coniston Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Coniston Parish Council held in the Reading Room, Coniston Institute, Coniston at 7.00pm on Monday 16th March 2020

Present: Councillor T Coward (Chair)
Councillors – K Batty, J Carroll, A Hall, A Thompson & H Troughton
Clerk – M Dearnley

In attendance: Seven members of the public

| Minute Number | | Action By |
|---------------|--|-----------|
| 151/2020 | Apologies RESOLVED: Apologies were received from Councillor Airey. | |
| 152/2020 | Requests for Dispensations No requests received. | |
| 153/2020 | Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of Agenda items All Councillors as Custodian Trustees of the Coniston Institute and Ruskin Museum. | |
| 154/2020 | Minutes of Meeting 17th February 2020 RESOLVED: The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 th February 2020 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair. | |
| 155/2020 | Public Participation Councillor Coward organised the meeting to ensure that members who wished to speak and discuss matters relating to Covid-19 would be able to do so before the routine business of the council. <u>County Councillor</u> No report. | |
| 156/2020 | <u>PCSO D Ross</u> PCSO Ross reported that for the period 15 th February to 11 th March 2020 there had been five incidents of note in the Coniston area: 2 concerns for welfare (1 resulting in Mountain Rescue) 1 crime of fraud recorded 1 crime of racially aggravated harassment 1 highway disruption (fallen tree) PCSO Ross reported that the constabulary will reintroduce the stationing of officers in rural towns, beginning with Brampton and Ambleside. There will be four dedicated officers for Ambleside as well as the existing Community Team. However, the front counter will not be opening. This is for a six-month trial period, during which time other options will be | |

| | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------|
| <p>157/2020</p> | <p>explored to improve rural policing in the county. <u>District Councillors</u></p> <p>Councillor Coward reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Lakeland District Council had passed its budget • It was continuing a large-scale reorganisation of services. • The capital programme included a number of large-scale capital projects including Ulverston Leisure Centre and Grange Lido. • Locally Important Programmes (LIPs) funding would be available soon, and that • Council Tax Relief has been extended to carers. | |
| <p>158/2020</p> | <p><u>Coniston & Torver Community Land Trust</u></p> <p>Mr Cameron reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church Room Fields Scheme. The delays in the scheme to develop affordable housing on the Church Room Fields will be brought to the attention of Tim Farron MP by the Housing Team in the hope that he might be able to speed the development process. • Community Housing Trust. The relevant authorities will be contacted to inform them of the desire to alter the Land Trust into a Community Housing Trust. | <p>AH</p> |
| <p>159/2020</p> | <p><u>Councillors attending the Institute Committee meeting</u></p> <p>Councillor Carroll reported that the Coniston Institute Committee had recently considered and declined to proceed with the Road Project, an arts project partially developed by Grizedale Arts.</p> <p>Robert McCracken had reported on the change in status to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).</p> <p>The staff in the Ruskin Museum reported an increase in attendance and sales. There has also been a very well received programme of music and theatre on the Institute stage throughout the Autumn 2019 – Spring 2020 season.</p> <p><u>Public Participation</u></p> | |
| <p>160/2020</p> | <p>Councillor Coward welcomed members of the public to the meeting. The Covid-19 pandemic is presenting the most serious challenges to public health in modern times. The council has already started pulling together a database of people willing to provide practical and emotional support to those living in our community who might be vulnerable for a wide range of reasons.</p> <p>She stated that Coniston is lucky in that it has strong groups, including the First responders and Coniston Carers who will be key to the provision of support. It had been the plan to have a village meeting on Thursday, 19th March 2020, however, this has been reviewed in the light of new advice coming from central government.</p> <p><u>First Responders</u> Deborah Kavanagh addressed the meeting. There are presently six first responders, each are fully equipped including carrying oxygen. The First Responders will not be sent to people actively suffering from Covid-19, however, they are preparing for the eventuality of coming across people suffering from the</p> | |

| | | |
|------------------------|---|--|
| | <p>virus and how they should best respond. This pandemic has highlighted the organisational issues which inhibit the recruitment of new volunteers, one aspect is the long period of time between people being recruited, trained and deployed.</p> <p>Mrs Kavanagh stated that the issues people self-quarantining might face included isolation and loneliness.</p> <p><u>Coniston Carers</u> Councillor Troughton reported that the Carers had no more capacity to increase their workload. This will require them to identify the most vulnerable in order to prioritise their care.</p> <p>Plans have been made to ensure that when a Carer falls ill or is unable to undertake their duties that recently retired Carers will step up and help.</p> <p>They are not presently recruiting additional Carers as they would not be able to deliver the training requirement.</p> <p>On behalf of the council, Councillor Coward asked how the First Responders and Coniston Carers could be helped. Both organisations will let the council know if they need support and what this support might look like.</p> <p><u>Shopping</u> Nicola Blackburn had conducted a survey of the four shops in the village: Coniston Co-operative Society, Hutchinson's, Hill's Spar, and the Coniston and Torver Dairy. The information she collated included how these organisations are able to help and support those self-quarantining including how they could order and pay for goods, and how these items would be delivered. This information has been handed to Ollie Stolborg and Lesley McCartney at Coniston Sports and Social Centre who will be co-ordinating volunteer efforts in the parish.</p> <p>161/2020 <u>Statement from Karen Guthrie Regarding the Road Project</u></p> <p>Karen Guthrie described her personal interest in the Road Project. Along with Emma Sumner she had co-authored a development report on the project, additionally she would have been contracted to work as part of the project's implementation. She was dismayed that the project had not been approved by the Coniston Institute Committee.</p> <p>She stated her belief that the project would have a positive impact on the economy of the Institute, Museum and Village; and that it would inspire future generations.</p> <p>Ms Guthrie contended that the Committee does not demographically represent the local community, that power is wielded by uncollaborative individuals, and that it fails to make decisions which benefit the wider population.</p> <p>She requested that the decision be reconsidered by the Committee and asked the Parish Council to support it.</p> | |
| <p>162/2020</p> | <p>Ongoing Issues and Actions from the Last Meeting</p> <p>A meeting had been arranged for Councillor Carroll to meet Cumbria County Council officers in order to discuss the white lines which need to be reinstated</p> | |

| | | |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| | <p>around the village. The County Council's officer responsible for the Working Together Project has agreed to attend a future meeting to discuss a way forward.</p> <p>Work has commenced on compiling a report detailing the work of the Coniston Lengthsman.</p> <p>The Lake District National Park Authority had reported that essential repairs to the land around the old station car park and fence had been completed. Councillor Carroll noted that although the wall had been repaired the fence was in a poor state. This issue is to be raised with the Authority.</p> <p>The Lake District National Park Authority will arrange for an officer to inspect the path running alongside the B5285 to identify what remedial action can be taken to improve it and make it passable.</p> <p>Mark Henderson, Chief Executive of the Home Group Housing Association has been invited to a future meeting of the council. This matter is to be pursued until an improvement has been made in the quality of property maintenance provided.</p> | <p>MD</p> <p>MD</p> <p>MD</p> |
| <p>163/2020</p> | <p>Planning Applications</p> <p>7/2020/5030 – 2 Park Gates Cottages, Park Gate, Coniston, LA21 8AT. Additional chimney. RESOLVED: NO OBJECTIONS</p> | <p>MD</p> |
| <p>164/2020</p> | <p>RESOLVED: Councillors noted the approval of planning permissions for the following applications:</p> <p>7/2019/5829 - Waterhead Hotel, Coniston, LA21 8AJ Approval of details reserved by conditions on planning application 7/2018/5650</p> <p>7/2020/5125 – Bowmanstead Studio, Bowmanstead, Coniston, LA21 8HB Approval of details reserved by condition no 4 on listed building consent ref 7/2018/5034 - door and window information</p> | |
| <p>165/2020</p> | <p><u>7/2020/5036</u> – 1 Sunbeam Cottages, Hawes Bank, Coniston, LA21 8AS Double storey side extension to provide ground floor store and first floor extension following withdrawal of application 7/2019/5719</p> <p>RESOLVED: Councillors noted the dismissal of the appeal made by the Diocese of Lancaster against the enforcement notice made by Lake District National Park Authority in respect of: <u>E/2018/0172</u> – Land at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Haws Bank, Coniston LA21 8AW</p> | |
| <p>166/2020</p> | <p>Coniston Maintenance and Highways Issues</p> <p><u>Lengthsman Report</u></p> <p>Mr Workman reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Brow Steps are presently being cleared and prepared for painting. • He had identified several issues – especially in relation to leaves causing difficulties and blocking drains as well as benches in need of repair and renovation. • He noted that with monthly timesheets there is often a very long period | |

| | | |
|------------------------|---|---------------------|
| <p>167/2020</p> | <p>before he is paid for the work he has completed. In the future worksheets will be submitted one week before a parish council meeting to ensure that payments are made more speedily.</p> <p>The whole council agreed with Councillor Coward who informed Mr Workman that the work he does makes a tangible improvement to the quality of life in the village and is widely appreciated.</p> <p><u>Other Highways issues in the Parish</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that the Lake District National Park Authority had increased its car parking charges. The Lake District National Park Authority will be asked to review this decision in view of the detrimental impact that it might have on an industry which will be impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. • The bench at the top of Lake Road had been severely damaged, possibly by a vehicle. The loose debris has been removed and the dedication plaque stored. The concrete ends are fixed to the pavement and need removing and the pavement made good. Mr Workman will be asked if this is a task he is equipped to fulfil. • Councillor Carroll reported on the unexpected road closure notice issued on Saturday, 14th March in relation to work starting on Monday, 16th March that would have closed the A594 for five days. Through the effective use of social media and the timely and effective intervention of County Councillor Matt Brereton this work was postponed sufficiently to enable schools, businesses and residents to make alternative arrangements. This was not considered to be an acceptable level of communication between Highways and local communities. • There has been flooding at Park Gate. Councillor Carroll has contacted the owner and Cumbria County Council's Flood Mitigation Officer. This matter is being taken forward and hopefully a long-term solution will be found to an ongoing issue. | <p>MD</p> |
| <p>168/2020</p> | <p>Bridge Toilets</p> <p>The decision was taken to award the cleaning contract for the toilet block and bus shelters. The successful contractor will be contacted and asked to ensure that the toilets are fully equipped and ready for use by Friday, 20th March 2020.</p> <p>In the event that Councillor Hall is unable to collect donations from the toilets Councillor Airey and the clerk will arrange for collections to be made.</p> | <p>MD</p> |
| <p>169/2020</p> | <p>Parish Council Elections</p> <p>The elections scheduled for May 2020 have been cancelled as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> | |
| <p>170/2020</p> | <p>Climate Focus</p> <p>David Ferrier will be asked for more details in relation to the installation of LED lights at the four inoperative sites identified at the last inspection.</p> <p>EON will be contacted to ask that the electricity charges be reviewed to reflect the largescale conversion to LED lights undertaken by the parish council in recent years.</p> | <p>MD</p> <p>MD</p> |

| | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------|
| <p>171/2020</p> | <p>Coniston Water Byelaw</p> <p>It was noted that the revised byelaws had been approved by the Lake District National Park Authority and had now been sent to the Secretary of State for formal consultation and approval.</p> | |
| <p>172/2020</p> | <p>South Lakeland District Council Parish Remuneration Panel Report</p> <p>The council noted that the regulatory notice publicising the Remuneration Panel's report will be published.</p> | <p>MD</p> |
| <p>173/2020</p> | <p>Councillor Matters</p> <p><u>Councillor Hall</u></p> <p>To mark the 25th Anniversary of Coniston Carers a celebration and fundraising event had been planned, Paul Gregson will play a selection of show tunes at St Andrew's on the 20th June.</p> <p>To reflect the issues presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Great British Litter Pick will not go ahead as a large scale event with people working closely together, instead individuals will be encouraged to work alone.</p> <p>It is important that businesses conform to planning rules when changing use. Yewdale Road now has a disproportionately large number of food outlets. This is a trend which should be monitored.</p> <p><u>Councillor Troughton</u></p> <p>A tend has been set up at Yew Tree Tarn, Councillor Carroll will inform the National Trust.</p> <p>The VE Commemorations are to go ahead for the time-being, but this will be kept under regular review.</p> <p>To avoid potential conflict between rearranged events such as the Fell Race, Coniston14, K2B all of which have been put back to the autumn. We will ask race organisers to keep Maria Swyer informed of changes to enable her to keep the village diary up-to-date.</p> <p><u>Councillor Carroll</u></p> <p>Councillor Carroll observed that the Lake District National Park Authority was established in part to improve the economic resilience of the area, however, there is too much reliance on tourism. This reliance is exposed at times of crisis which reduce visitor numbers such during Food and Mouth and the Covid19 pandemic. The Authority needs to ensure that the area has a more balanced economy.</p> <p><u>Councillor Coward</u></p> <p>The Campbell Memorial Wildflower Meadow group 'Get Coniston Buzzing' has met and plans are progressing.</p> | |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>174/2020</p> <p>175/2020</p> | <p>Financial Matters</p> <p><u>Receipts</u> RESOLVED: Cllrs noted the following receipts: None.</p> <p><u>Payments</u> RESOLVED: Cllrs authorised payment of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk's Salary £284.60 • HMRC £71.00 • EON – street lighting £181.55 • EON – Bridge Toilets £3.74 • WaterPlus £124.99 | |
| <p>176/2020</p> | <p>Correspondence</p> <p>RESOLVED: Cllrs noted the following e-mails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hawkshead Parish Council Agenda (February) • Malcolm Wilson Rally road closure notices • Darkening Skies Workshop, Greenodd • South Lakeland District Council Local Plan Review • Rusland Horizons Newsletter: February and March • Rural Bulletin, 18.2.20, 25.2.20, 3.3.20 • Public Sector News: 19.2.20, 25.2.20 • CALC Government support for storm-hit areas • CALC NW Coastal Access monthly update • CALC Cumbria in Bloom • Cumbria CVS: Action for mental health provider forum bulletin 20.2.20, 11.3.20 • Highways - temporary road closure notice, Coniston • Erik Wright Charitable Funding • CALC update on Great Cumbrian Litter Pick • LDNPA Planning: appeal decision relating to E/2018/0172 • Matt Brereton invitation to attend the A590 and surrounding roads and communities meeting • Cumbria CVS: South Lakeland Community Newsletter • CALC training dates • Torver Hungarian Evening • Torver Parish Council Agenda (March), Minutes (February) • PSE Newsletter • Blawith and Subberthwaite Parish Council Agenda (March) Minutes (February) • Rural Services Network – Rural Funding Digest, March 2020 • Hawkshead Parish Council Minutes (February) • ACT Gazette (Spring 2020) • South Lakeland District Council Tenancy Strategy Consultation • Torver School House Briefing Note • Parish Council Remuneration Panel Report • LDNPA Water Association Meeting, 18.3.20 • CALC update on Great Cumbrian Litter Pick • LDNPA update on Coniston Water Byelaws • CALC re: Local Electricity Bill • Blawith and Subberthwaite Parish Council resolution regarding | |

| | | |
|-----------------|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the LDNPA • Hawkshead Parish Council Agenda (March) • CALC VE Day email • CALC Transport Planning Society | |
| 177/2020 | <p>Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday, 20th April 2020 at 7pm in the Reading Room, Coniston Institute</p> | |

Meeting closed at 8:55pm

.....
Date

.....
Signed & Approved by (Chair)