

# Coniston Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of Coniston Parish Council held in the Reading Room, Coniston Institute, Coniston at 7.00pm on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020

**Present:** Councillor T Coward (Chair)  
Councillors: A Hall, A Thompson, H Troughton and J Airey  
Clerk: M Dearnley

**In attendance:** 4 members of the public

Minute Number		Action By
100/2020	<b>Apologies</b> <b>RESOLVED:</b> Apologies received and accepted from Councillor Carroll. No apologies were received from Councillor Batty.	
101/2020	<b>Requests for Dispensations</b> No requests received.	
102/2020	<b>Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of Agenda items</b> All Councillors as Custodian Trustees of the Coniston Institute and Ruskin Museum.	
103/2020	<b>Minutes of Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019</b> <b>RESOLVED:</b> that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2019 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.	
104/2020	<b>Public Participation</b>  <u>National Trust</u> John Moffatt submitted a report to the meeting in which he described upcoming issues relating the National Trust in and around Coniston. These included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing work to combat woodland disease at and around Tarn Hows is continuing, this will result in further path closures to facilitate safe working.</li> <li>• There are no empty properties in the parish</li> <li>• Hill Top, Beatrix Potter Gallery and Wray Castle will all re-open on 15<sup>th</sup> February</li> <li>• The Steam Yacht Gondola and Hoathwaite campsite will be re-opening in late March.</li> <li>• A 'drop-in' session has been organised for Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 4:30pm – 6:30pm to enable residents and visitors to talk about anything relating to the National Trust. This has been timed to enable Councillors to drop-in before their meeting.</li> </ul> <u>Cumbria Constabulary</u> PCSO Ross sent her apologies with a report. During the period 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2019 to 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020 there were 7 calls for service in the Coniston area. These break down as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 road traffic incidents (damage only)</li> <li>1 crime of domestic assault recorded</li> <li>3 concerns for welfare - 2 requiring Mountain Rescue</li> <li>1 crime of burglary of commercial premises – high value stock taken.</li> </ul>	

	<p>It was reported that across the whole of the county, there have been incidences of rural theft, particularly machinery and tools. Residents were asked to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to support Cumbria Constabulary's ongoing operations to combat rural crime.</p> <p><u>County Councillor</u></p> <p>Councillor Brereton reported on a wide range of issues relating to Coniston and the surrounding area including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yewdale Bridge. There have been some bus route changes to reflect the restrictions placed on its use following its recent damage. This damage is likely to be repaired in May or June at the earliest.</li> </ul> <p>Despite signage vehicles are still making left turns out of Shepherd's Bridge Road onto the B5285 toward Hawkshead. A request to have the bridge widened was passed on. Councillor Brereton will report both of these issues to Highways.</p> <p>Organisers of events which may be impacted by Yewdale Bridge being out of commission will be informed of the restricted use of the bridge, especially in relation to larger vehicles such as coaches. The organisers of the Coniston 14 have already been informed. K2B, the Keswick to Barrow Walk are to be informed as are the school who will be asked to inform any organisations which use their fields throughout the spring and early summer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White Lines. Requests from the Parish Council to have white lines are still being considered. Councillor Brereton recognised that it has been two years since a comprehensive list of lines for reinstatement was forwarded to Highways, he will ask to have Coniston's white lines reinstated in order to support better traffic management and road safety.</li> <li>• The signage at the Sacred Heart to slow down traffic is not being supported by the County Council, Councillor Brereton will enquire into this decision to ensure that it supports the road safety concerns for that stretch of road.</li> <li>• Councillor Brereton is working to establish a footpath between Foxfield and Coniston. He has received support from Emma Moody at the Lake District National Park Authority. A route has been identified which Councillor Brereton will walk in an attempt to identify any issues, after this survey there will be greater consultation and a working party established.</li> </ul> <p><u>District Councillors</u></p> <p>Councillor Wharton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduced himself and the areas of work which he is particularly engaged with at the present time, these included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Litter</li> <li>• Community development</li> <li>• Lengthsman Scheme, with particular interest in how this might be extended and how future Lengthsmen might be trained, possibly through apprenticeships.</li> <li>• Working on the Lake District National Park, with a particular interest in rights of way and the Authority's strategic vision.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>MB</p> <p>MD</p> <p>MB</p> <p>MB</p>
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	<p>Councillor Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Windermere Ferry has suffered from a number of breakdowns resulting in a loss of service. It was believed that this was the result of the vessel being old and in need of replacement. This has been detrimental to residents and visitors alike, impacting upon the local economy, the positive perception of the area, and the environment. The Parish Council will write to the County Council to express concerns.</li> <li>• The protracted daytime road closure of the A5084 at Water Yeat was considered excessive having an impact on businesses, residents, and visitors disproportionate to the minor works being undertaken. The Parish Council will write to the County Council to express this concern and to ask for greater consultation rather than notification in relation to future road closures.</li> <li>• The new format for the parish magazine – incorporating all the parishes within the benefice has been well received.</li> <li>• This year’s Big Spring Clean will be on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March (10am to 2pm) and Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> March (12:30pm to 4pm). This will be promoted on social media.</li> <li>• It had been reported to Councillor Hall that a number of gullies and drains at the bottom of Lake Road are blocked. These will no doubt have been reported to the County Council, but might in future be dealt with by the Lengthsman.</li> </ul> <p>Councillor Thompson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The village map in Hawkshead was produced as part of a project with Go Lakes. The meeting considered that a similar village map of Coniston would be desirable but not a priority.</li> <li>• The National Trust fingerpost which uses Waterhead Hotel will need to be altered to reflect the hotels change of name to the Coniston Inn. The National Trust will be informed.</li> </ul> <p>Councillor Coward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asked that, where appropriate, all Highways issues are accompanied by a Grid Reference to enable everyone to focus in on specific issues more clearly.</li> </ul> <p><u>Coniston &amp; Torver Community Land Trust</u> No report.</p> <p><u>Councillors attending the Institute Committee meeting</u> Recent meetings have bene focussed on Bluebird, however, there is nothing to report at present.</p> <p><u>National Trust</u> Mr Moffat sent his apologies with a report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work was continuing at and around Tarn Hows to deal with the woodland disease – felling was nearly complete, but operations will require more path closures</li> <li>• No empty properties in the parish at present</li> <li>• The National Trust has organised a ‘drop in’ session on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February immediately before the next Parish Council meeting to canvass the views and issues of residents and visitors.</li> <li>• Beyond the parish, Hill Top, Wray Castle, and the Beatrix Potter Gallery will all reopen on the 15<sup>th</sup> February</li> </ul>	<p>MD</p> <p>MD</p> <p>HT/AH</p> <p>MD</p> <p>ALL</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steam Yacht Gondola and Hoathwaite campsite will be commencing operations in late March</li> <li>• There has been significant recruitment taking place.</li> </ul> <p><u>Public Participation</u> There was none.</p>	
<b>105/2020</b>	<p><b>Ongoing Issues and Actions from the Last Meeting</b></p> <p>The Lake District National Park had repaired the path leading from the B5285 and Pier Cottage.</p> <p>Sam Clarke inspected and made safe the bench known as Jones' Seat by Dow How.</p> <p>Barry Woodend will continue to grit surfaces as necessary.</p> <p>Tilberthwaite Partnership Management Group's work has been postponed until the outcome of an ongoing judicial review into the Lake District National Park's decision relating to the Green Lanes.</p> <p>A letter of thanks was sent to Helen Glaister on behalf of the Parish Council for the work that she did to support the gift collection organised by Mark Laithwaite, Lakeland 100.</p>	
<b>106/2020</b>	<p><b>Planning Applications</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Councillors noted the following Notices of Grant of Planning Permission:</p> <p><b>7/2019/5745</b> - Monk Coniston Hall, Coniston, LA21 8AQ Remedial work to south elevation window lintels and associated making-good works.</p> <p><b>7/2019/5621</b> - Bonsor Upper Mill, Coppermines Valley, Coniston, LA21 8HX Improvement works to the surface water drainage system and the foul drainage at the Bonsor Upper Mill site.</p>	
<b>107/2020</b>	<p><b>Highways</b></p> <p>Mr Workman had been able to repair the paving stones by Coniston Institute and stonework on the bridge. Painting of the Brow Steps is weather dependent and it hasn't been possible to undertake this work during January.</p> <p>The Council noted that Councillor Carroll has requested that a signpost at Tarn Hows indicating the direction of Coniston is reinstated.</p>	
<b>108/2020</b>	<p><b>Bridge Road Toilets</b></p> <p>Councillor Coward reported that a lottery bid has been prepared to support the renovation project. Councillor Batty is to be asked to inspect the toilet block to ensure that they have weathered the winter in good condition in readiness for the new season.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To note the update and to request that Councillor Batty inspect the state of Bridge Toilets.</p>	MD

109/2020	<p><b>Coniston Water Byelaws</b> Councillors noted the timetable by which the revised byelaws will come into effect.</p>	
110/2020	<p><b>Streetlighting</b> Councillor Troughton reported on the recent condition survey conducted in to the streetlighting erected and maintained by the Parish Council in Coniston.</p> <p>There are four streetlights presently not in working condition, it is desirable to replace these with LED lamps. Considering both safety and environmental issues this work will be commissioned after it has been identified whether the Council can find additional funding to finance the conversion of the remaining 6 sodium and PL lamps to LED lamps.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To delay the replacement of the four inoperative streetlights until a wider scheme of streetlight renewal has been investigated.</p>	AH
111/2020 112/2020 113/2020	<p><b>Tendering</b> The contract for the cleaning of the bus shelters at Adams Bridge and Ruskin Avenue; and the cleaning of Bridge Toilets is due for renewal.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To agree the contract specification for use in the tendering process</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To instruct the clerk to approach cleaning companies in an attempt to increase the number of tenders received.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To use social media, the parish website and other methods of publicising the tendering process</p> <p>The Parish Council will meet on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> March to open tender documents and to identify the preferred contractor.</p>	MD
114/2020	<p><b>Bluebird Memorial Meadow</b> Councillor Coward reported that to 'Get Coniston Buzzing' a working group to support the establishment of wildflower and bee friendly areas in and around the village has been set up. This group has identified an area to be used for the creation of four test beds to explore which approach works best with local conditions. This planting will be accompanied by the development of display materials to explain the nature of the project.</p> <p>Councillor Coward will contact South Lakeland District Council, from whom the Campbell Memorial land is leased, to identify whether there will be any issues that require prior approval before the plans are enacted.</p> <p>Other areas within the parish are to be identified and the possibility of joint or partnership working with Cumbria County Council, National Trust and the Lake District National Park, amongst others, is to be explored.</p> <p>This scheme has been made possible by the generous grant received from the Lake District Foundation.</p>	TC
	<p><b>The Coniston Institute and Ruskin Museum</b> It was noted that there are vacancies for additional trustees, however, none are being proposed at this time due to the ongoing review of the Trust's constitution. If any individual is interested in putting themselves forward they are to speak to Councillor Coward.</p>	

115/2020	<b>RESOLVED:</b> Councillors resolved not to actively seek to fill vacancies on the Trust until the constitutional review has been completed.	
116/2020	<p><b>Councillor Matters</b></p> <p><u>Councillor Troughton</u></p> <p>A grant had been previously awarded to the Coniston News to help replace the existing awning and improve the street scene, however, before the shop had replaced the existing awning, the business had been sold. The previous owner will be contacted and asked to clarify the situation and whether this grant should be returned to reallocate to other businesses.</p> <p>Suzanne Walker and Mike Tomes has recently completed their training to become operational firefighters. Both are to be congratulated on this, and an especial note was made that Suzanne would be the first operational firefighter based at Coniston.</p> <p><u>Councillor Hall</u></p> <p>Following a further delay in developing the land at Far End Councillor Hall has written to Castles and Coasts Housing Association to express dissatisfaction that local need for accommodation is not being satisfied.</p> <p>A working group has been established to co-ordinate the commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day. Ideas to date include the lighting a beacon, and a dance with participants encouraged to dress in period clothing. The first meeting of this group will be held before the next parish council meeting.</p> <p>The paths at the park have been reinstated, however, the surface is quite rough and possibly not suited to small children. This is to be inspected and reported back to the parish council.</p> <p>It was noted that the Presbytery at the Sacred Heart which is presently appealing against planning enforcement in relation to the car park and access onto the A593 has begun advertising the property as a holiday let for 16 persons.</p> <p><u>Councillor Thompson</u></p> <p>The footpath between Coniston and Waterhead is flooded in several places, people have even taken stones off the wall to create stepping stones across some stretches. The Lake District National Park are to be contacted and asked to inspect and to take remedial action.</p> <p>Coniston Football Club have won the league title in the Furness Bargain Booze Second Division. It was decided that Robert Warne, as manager and on behalf of the whole team, would be congratulated on this achievement.</p> <p>Councillor Thompson will speak with Coniston Cricket Club to identify a way in which the parish council can most appropriately show its appreciation and gratitude for the contribution made to village life by Nathan Atkinson.</p> <p><u>Councillor Coward</u></p>	<p>MD</p> <p>AH</p> <p>MD</p> <p>MD</p> <p>AT</p>

	<p>Thanks are to be extended to the National Trust for supplying a splendid Christmas Tree as well as to Councillor Thompson who organised its erection and removal.</p> <p><u>Councillor Carroll</u></p> <p>A report had been submitted in advance.</p> <p>The Lake District National Park has been contacted for planning guidance in relation to the development of a statue of Donald Campbell and Leo Villa by the Campbell Memorial. Councillor Coward will take a lead on this project.</p> <p>Councillor Troughton will take a lead on helping to develop the Coniston Round, a walking route around Coniston Water.</p> <p>Remedial work in relation to the Old Station Car Park which was reported in October 2019 to Simon Hill, Lake District National Park Authority, has not been actioned. Mr Hill will be contacted to identify a timetable for work to commence.</p>	<p>MD</p> <p>MD</p>														
<p><b>117/2020</b></p> <p><b>118/2020</b></p> <p><b>119/2020</b></p>	<p><b>Financial Matters</b></p> <p><u>To note the SLDC precept form for 2020/21</u></p> <p>The Parish Council precept has been increased by 2.44% to £21,000 to reflect budgetary priorities. This is the first increase in the precept for three years.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To note the submission of the Parish Council precept.</p> <p><u>Income</u></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Councillors recognised the generous grant of £1,465 from the Lake District Foundation to support the 'Get Coniston Buzzing' project.</p> <p><u>Payments</u></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Councillors authorised payment of the following:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>• Clerk's Salary</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£711.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• HMRC</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£142.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• EON – street lighting</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£194.07</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• EON – Bridge Toilets</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£11.72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Coniston Ground Care – playground paths</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,800.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Sam Clarke</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£420.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Councillor Carroll (Bluebird Flags)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£195.00</td> </tr> </table>	• Clerk's Salary	£711.20	• HMRC	£142.00	• EON – street lighting	£194.07	• EON – Bridge Toilets	£11.72	• Coniston Ground Care – playground paths	£1,800.00	• Sam Clarke	£420.00	• Councillor Carroll (Bluebird Flags)	£195.00	
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<p><b>120/2020</b></p>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Councillors noted the following e-mails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fred Whitton notice of road closures</li> <li>• Cumbria Arts and Culture Network Newsletter</li> <li>• PSE Newsletter</li> <li>• Police Report</li> <li>• Christmas Bulletin for health and mental health providers</li> <li>• Rural Services Network (17.12.19)</li> </ul>															

<p><b>121/2020</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payphone removal consultation</li> <li>• Torver Parish Council December minutes</li> <li>• Tilberthwaite Partnership Management Group Meeting notice</li> <li>• NALC Chair letter to all councillors regarding the building of stronger communities</li> <li>• Hawkshead Parish Council minutes</li> <li>• Lakes Parish Council agenda and minutes</li> <li>• Torver Parish Council agenda and minutes</li> <li>• Malcolm Wilson Rally notification</li> <li>• Lakeland Trails Marathon in Coniston</li> <li>• Rural Services Network Bulletin (7.1.20)</li> <li>• Torver Parish Council minutes</li> <li>• Cumbria CVS Bulletin</li> <li>• NW Coastal access update</li> <li>• Cumbria Action for Health and Mental Health Provider Forums bulletin</li> <li>• Rural Services Network Bulletin (14.1.20)</li> <li>• Lakeland Trails Marathon notification</li> <li>• Hawkshead Parish Council Agenda</li> <li>• Rural Services Network Bulletin (21.1.20)</li> <li>• Grizedale Arts – Lawson Park Visiting Days 2020</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Councillors notes the following correspondence received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clerks &amp; Councils Direct Magazine January 2020</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Next Meeting</b>  Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7.00pm in the Reading Room, Coniston Institute.</p>	

Meeting closed at 9:17pm

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Date

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Signed & Approved by (Chair)