

Coniston Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Coniston Parish Council Held on Zoom at 7.00pm on Monday, 22nd June 2020

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

In attendance: 4 Members of the public

Minute Number		Action By
178/2020	<p>Apologies</p> <p>RESOLVED: Apologies were received from Councillors Batty and Airey.</p>	
179/2020	<p>Requests for Dispensations</p> <p>No requests received.</p>	
180/2020	<p>Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of Agenda items</p> <p>All Councillors as Custodian Trustees of the Coniston Institute and Ruskin Museum.</p>	
181/2020	<p>Minutes of Meetings held between 17th March and 22nd April 2020</p> <p>The notes of meetings held during this period were noted. These do not constitute a minutes of full parish council meetings.</p>	
182/2020	<p>Decisions taken under the High Consequence Infectious Disease Policy</p> <p>NOTED: That under this scheme, adopted by parish councillors on the 3rd April 2020, decision-making had been delegated to the Chairperson in order to facilitate the orderly operation of the parish council's business during the pandemic. The following decisions were taken by the Chairperson after full consultation with the other parish councillors. The council is asked to note these decisions.</p> <p>Planning Applications</p> <p>7/2020/5114 – Brackendene, Lake Road, Coniston, LA21 8EW RESOLVED: No objections</p> <p>7/2020/5264 – The Wyn, Coniston, LA21 8HJ RESOLVED: Objections</p> <p>7/2020/5286 – 4 Holly How Close, Coniston, LA21 8BZ RESOLVED: Support</p> <p>7/2020/5314 – Bowmanstead Studio, Bowmanstead, Coniston, LA21 8HB RESOLVED: No objection</p>	

	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p><u>Payments</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>A Workman (Lengthsman)</td> <td>£133.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A Workman (Lengthsman)</td> <td>£98.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WJ Carpenter (ICT Contract)</td> <td>£399.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M Dearnley (April & May)</td> <td>£569.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC (April & May)</td> <td>£142.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coniston Institute (Room Hire)</td> <td>£84.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M Dearnley (External Hard Drive)</td> <td>£42.72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In Reach Services (Christmas Lights Reissue)</td> <td>£900.00</td> </tr> </table>	A Workman (Lengthsman)	£133.99	A Workman (Lengthsman)	£98.99	WJ Carpenter (ICT Contract)	£399.99	M Dearnley (April & May)	£569.20	HMRC (April & May)	£142.00	Coniston Institute (Room Hire)	£84.00	M Dearnley (External Hard Drive)	£42.72	In Reach Services (Christmas Lights Reissue)	£900.00	
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<p>183/2020</p>	<p>Public Participation</p> <p><u>National Trust</u></p> <p>Mr Moffat reported that the past three months had been busy and that the pace of change was increasing.</p> <p>Approximately 80% of staff had been furloughed since the end of March, this was a situation likely to continue, however, there are changes to report;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More rangers are being brought back from furlough to help to manage issues presented by ever increasing visitor numbers, • Car parks had been opened quickly to respond to government guidelines, disabled toilets have been similarly opened and this appears to meet demand for the present, • Gardens will be reopened soon e.g. Hilltop will be reopened 2nd July • The Gondola will commence cruises from mid-July • Most indoor attractions are more problematic and will be closed for between 6 to 8 weeks, in many cases this will mean that they are not opening this season at all. <p>The Trust is consulting on redundancies to reflect the impact of Covid-19 on the finances of the National Trust.</p> <p>Mr Moffat observed that there were large numbers of people visiting who were a 'new audience' for national parks and for the Lake District in particular. Many did not understand how a national park operates and forgetting that this is a living landscape. This lack of experience and respect had caused problems in Windermere, Ambleside and on the eastern shore of Coniston Water.</p> <p>The traffic order restricting traffic on the east side of Coniston Water had brought some improvement, but all are being alert to the possibility that this might simply move the problem elsewhere. The National Trust is working with others to identify ways to help relieve local pressures e.g. to convert fields to additional parking. Mr Moffat also acknowledged and thanked the people of Coniston who had been out each night picking up litter resulting from the increased number of visitors to the area.</p> <p>Councillor Coward thanked Mr Moffat and his team for the work they have done and will continue to do; and for taking the time to brief the meeting so that the parish council understand the position the National Trust more fully. She also thanked Mr Moffat for his update and for the positive way he found to reframe the recent disruptions experienced in and around the village as resulting from a 'new audience' that requires educating.</p>																	

The pandemic has shown that flexible working between organisations can be very effective. The future needs to be one where there is closer working toward agreed goals and less demarcation between authorities. The parish council will support the National Park and Lake District National Park at this time through the deployment of the Lengthsman to support them whilst they are returning to full capabilities.

County Councillor

Councillor Brereton noted that the Lake District wanted a new audience, but in a way that we can manage.

He reported that the emergency traffic order closing the east side of Coniston Water to all but essential traffic had proven reasonably successful, but the problem could easily have been dispersed. The County Council had responded to this with enhanced vigilance, more traffic enforcement action taking place in and around the village as well as in the reinstatement of white and yellow lines. The initial order is for 21 days, this can be extended by a further 21 days into mid-August if required and then extended for a longer period.

Councillor Carroll questioned whether the conversion of single yellow lines to double yellow lines was a more straightforward and speedy process than applying for a traffic regulation order. Councillor Brereton was not aware of the intricacies of the process, however, he did confirm that the County Council were doing what they can by ensuring the existing white and yellow lines are clearly reinstated, and therefore capable of being enforced, whilst preparing a new traffic regulation in the spring.

District Councillors

Councillor Coward

Reported that the focus of South Lakeland District Council is on the successful and safe opening of the high street. There is real concern that the Lake Districts dependence on tourism makes it more vulnerable at this time. Projections indicate that there may be widespread unemployment and that businesses may experience more difficulties on the road to recovery.

South Lakeland District Council held its first practice online meeting in its ongoing attempt to maintain the democratic process.

Councillor Wharton

Reported that from his perspective as elected member on the Lake District National Park Authority he had seen the situation around Coniston improved by effective partnership working. The aforementioned traffic order was the result of joint working between South Lakeland District Council, Cumbria County Council, Forestry England, National Trust, Lake District National Park Authority, and Cumbria Constabulary.

The road closure had significantly reduced traffic and litter, Councillor Wharton reported that it had been met by mostly positive response from the local popular who saw it as one of the few actions which might have an impact on the poor behaviour of these new visitors to the area.

There were regular patrols around Coniston Water and the woods to check car parks, movement along the closed road, etc. These patrols were often in the early evening to inform people of the legal requirement not to camp or stay overnight, as well as early morning to address the issue directly with those who had chosen to remain.

Numerous arrests have been made across the district with the police breaking up illegal parties, raves, large-scale camping and moving people on.

Councillor Wharton noted that those involved are not 'Lake District people' they have often been poorly behaved more out of ignorance than through any desire to offend. There is a 'Behave Responsibly' campaign aimed to improve understanding and behaviour.

Councillors Carroll and Troughton brought up the matter of motorbikes going off-road all over the fells. This had been reported to the police and Mr S Tatlock at the Lake District National Park Authority. Mr Tatlock has responded, but to date there has been no response from the police which is disappointing as it means that the opportunity to follow up when there is plentiful evidence has been missed. Councillor Wharton will take the matter forward to the appropriate authorities in order to identify suitable advice and operational strategy.

IW

Councillor Coward thanked Councillor Wharton for his update.

PCSO D Ross

During the extended period of lockdown and the pressures put on the police service, it was determined that Cumbria Constabulary would not routinely attend or submit reports to parish council meetings.

The council wanted it noted that PCSO Ross had played a key role throughout the pandemic; providing a visible presence in the village, responding to the needs of the community, and supporting effective communication. The clerk is instructed to write to Rupert Johnson, Cumbria Constabulary and Peter McCaul, Police and Crime Commissioner to express the parish's appreciation of PCSO Ross who, alongside other many other officers, have provided the community with wonderful support.

Coniston & Torver Community Land Trust

Mr Cameron reported that:

- The Stewardship Scheme for Coniston Commons was proceeding, as was a heritage interpretation project to tell the story of Coniston's slate mining industry
- The housing development at Church Room Fields has not made the progress which housing need indicates it should.
- The Community Land Trust is in the process of exploring a change from a Community Interest Company to a Community Housing Trust.

Councillors attending the Institute Committee meeting

It was reported that all of the staff at the Museum were busy getting ready for the new season at the Institute after the government had given permission for facilities to open.

184/2020	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>It was noted that there were no outstanding planning applications.</p>	
185/2020	<p>Coniston Maintenance and Highways Issues</p> <p><u>Lengthsman</u></p> <p>Mr Workman recommenced work in the village as soon as the parish council considered it safe and reasonable to ask him to travel to work. He has renovated two benches along the path at Dow How and has started the renovation of the bench by the path to Torver south of Dow Crag House.</p> <p>Two paths were identified as being overgrown and proving a nuisance to pedestrians and forcing them to pass each other in a way that does not enable social distancing. Mr Workman will be asked to clear paths at Little Arrow by the old railway line and the off road path between Yewdale Bridge and the Coniston Inn.</p> <p><u>Other Highways issues in the Parish</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress has been made in relation to the repair of Yewdale Bridge. The Environment Agency had given the County Council permission to begin work, which is now scheduled to begin on the 13th July. • Dow How path has been cut back to enable pedestrians to pass, but in such a way that the natural flowering on the bank has not been affected. • The C018, the road to the east of the lake had been closed by a joint decision of Cumbria County Council, the Lake District National Park and Cumbria Constabulary. This decision has been taken in an attempt to stem the large number of badly parked cars, which had made the passage of emergency vehicles impossible. • It was noted that there were a number of gullies in the village that required clearing in order for drainage to be effective. All blocked gullies are to be reported to Cumbria County Council using the portal. 	MD
186/2020	<p>Bridge Toilets and Playground on Lake Road</p> <p>The toilets remained closed during the early part of the pandemic and did so until the public health issues made their opening of paramount importance. The parish council completed a risk assessment and agreed its implementation with Lakesloos in order to minimise the possibility of spreading the infection.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the parish council as a precepting body, was not eligible for the government's business disruption grant however, Water Plus had cancelled water rates for the period the toilets were closed. The electricity rate has been renegotiated with EON.</p> <p>To date the facilities are being used responsibly, although some additional signage is to be provided to support the safe usage message.</p> <p>In line with governmental guidance, the playground will remain closed for the time being. In preparation for the end of the lockdown period of the pandemic a risk assessment and necessary steps will be taken to ensure that we are doing everything reasonable to make the playground a safe environment.</p>	MD

<p>187/2020</p>	<p>Streetlighting</p> <p>It was noted that the council had secured a refund for £1,402.14 in relation to backdated savings accrued from the conversion of sodium lights to LED streetlights. This will provide future savings with substantially lower monthly bills.</p> <p>Remaining lamps need to be repaired and replaced as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>Following the retirement of Mr Ferrier, the clerk will contact other parish councils to identify other streetlighting contractors who will be able to take over the repair of lamps that are not working and the replacement of lamps which still have sodium bulbs.</p>	<p>MD</p>
<p>188/2020</p>	<p>Climate Focus</p> <p>The parish council remains committed to the conversion of streetlights from sodium to LED lighting, which offers both financial savings and environmental benefits.</p>	
<p>189/2020</p>	<p>Coniston Institute facilities</p> <p>RESOLVED: To make a donation of £2,000 to the development of toilet facilities at Coniston Institute.</p>	
<p>190/2020</p>	<p>Standing Orders</p> <p>RESOLVED: The amendment to the standing orders prepared by NALC for adoption and adaptation by parish councils was adopted unanimously.</p>	
<p>191/2020</p>	<p>Consultation</p> <p>Councillor Troughton volunteered to consolidate the parish council's response to the consultation on the amended Cumbria Choice Based Lettings Allocations Policy. All councillors are asked to forward their observations to Councillor Troughton to enable her to write a consensus position to submit.</p>	<p>HT</p>
<p>192/2020</p>	<p>Councillor Matters</p> <p>Councillor Troughton raised the issues of United Utilities damaging a path belonging to the National Trust as part of their repair work. She also reported that all of the parish council litter pickers have been loaned out, Councillor Coward will contact South Lakeland District Council in an attempt to get some more.</p> <p>Councillor Hall reported that Mr G Hill had to clear the playground of bags of dog waste that had been thrown in over the locked gate. Councillor Coward volunteered to ensure that the bin is regularly emptied.</p> <p>Councillor Coward outlined the position that the Amenities Fund will need to address at its meeting on the 29th June.</p> <p>There is £5,000 set aside from an anonymous donation. This will be used to help high street businesses open safely and successfully. An</p>	<p>TC</p> <p>TC</p>

	<p>application form has been drafted and will be distributed to enable the Amenities Fund to have all the information it requires in order for it to expedite decision making. The Coniston Business Forum has been invited to attend the Amenities Fund meeting to contribute to the decision making process. Application Forms will be distributed as effectively as possible given the short timescale within which the process needs to be completed.</p> <p>Councillor Carroll reported that he had had a positive conversation with Paul Walker, Home Group. He has proposed a plan of action that includes Butcher's Moss and so there is a need to invite Torver Parish Council to work together to the benefit of residents.</p>	<p>MD</p> <p>MD</p>																		
<p>193/2020</p>	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>NOTED: Councillors noted the extension of insurance coverage through Came & Company for a further year.</p> <p><u>Receipts</u> RESOLVED: Cllrs noted the following receipts:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>• SLDC Precept (First Instalment)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£10,079.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• SLDC Parish Grant</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£840.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• EON Streetlighting Refund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,402.14</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Payments</u> RESOLVED: Cllrs authorised payment of the following:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>• T Coward</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£39.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• A Workman</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£126.76</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Came & Company</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,011.64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• M Dearnley</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£284.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• HMRC</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£71.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Crisp Décor</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£161.80</td> </tr> </table>	• SLDC Precept (First Instalment)	£10,079.90	• SLDC Parish Grant	£840.20	• EON Streetlighting Refund	£1,402.14	• T Coward	£39.60	• A Workman	£126.76	• Came & Company	£1,011.64	• M Dearnley	£284.60	• HMRC	£71.00	• Crisp Décor	£161.80	
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<p>194/2020</p>	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>RESOLVED: Cllrs noted the following e-mails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CALC advice on business continuity in the face of Covid-19 • Notice of cancellation – May 2020 Local Elections • Great British Spring Clean – guidance in the face of Covid-19 • Coniston Water Association – meeting cancelled • SLDC Local Plan Review – drop-in events cancelled • SLDC Climate Change event – cancelled • National Trust: Far End Meadow • LDNPA Partnership Management Plan Consultation • Cumbria CC – Working Together • NALC – Covid-19 advice to local authorities • Coniston Sports and Social Centre – response to Covid-19 • Rural Bulletin 17.3.20, 24.3.20, 31.3.20, 15.4.20, 21.4.20, 6.5.20, 27.5.20, 1.6.20, 3.6.20, 9.6.20, 16.6.20 • Rural Funding Digest 2.4.20, 7.5.20 • CALC – draft High Consequence Infectious Disease Policy • Great British Spring Clean – postponed to September 2020 																			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLDC News Release – Council committed to maintaining essential services • SLDC Coronavirus Communication Resilience Sub Group • Neighbourhood Alert – Coronavirus scams • Action for Health and Mental Health Provider Forum Bulletin, 23.3.20, 1.4.20, 31.5.20, 8.6.20, 11.6.20 • Torver Community First Responders – resignations and closure • National Trust update on impact of Covid-19 • Cumbria CC Highways – Road Closure C5026 • Cumbria Constabulary – Police attendance and reporting at parish meetings • LDNPA Closure of Car Parks • SLDC Parish Council Green Funding Opportunities • SLDC News Release – Council measures during pandemic • Cumbria CC – Covid-19 Response Fund • SLDC – establishment of Welfare Co-ordination Hub • Torver Parish Council – suspension of parish meetings and a range of other local events • Cumbria CC emergency support telephone line • CALC – changes to bus services and timetables • CALC – Cumbria in Bloom – cancelled • Cumbria LEP – Friday update • Cumbria CC: Safeguarding information for communication groups • PSE Newsletter 31.3.20, 2.4.20, 10.4.20, 17.6.20 • Cumbria Constabulary: Press Release ‘Additional 5000 patient beds created in County • CALC: Covid Support available to vulnerable people requiring urgent help 1.4.20 • Cumbria Arts and Culture Network Newsletter 1.4.20 • Tilberthwaite Farm Countryside Stewardship Environmental Consultation 1.4.20 • South Lakeland Area Support Network 1.4.20 • CALC: Bereavement Support Information 1.4.20 • CAB ‘Advice on securing refunds for cancelled events’ 1.4.20 • South Lakeland • LDNPA Press Release ‘Keep the Lake District safe this Easter’ 7.4.20 • Cumbria CC Hub Update, Shielding and NHS Volunteers 8.4.20 • CALC: Charity funding opportunities Area Support: Community Information 3.4.20 • CALC: Flexibility of meetings 3.4.20 • Helen Glaister: Wandering Cloud Online Art Exhibition 6.4.20 • Torver Parish Council: April Agenda and Minutes 8.4.20 • SLDC Press Release: Business support grant • Cumbria Constabulary 9.4.20, 1.5.20, 7.5.20, 29.5.20, 31.5.20, 5.6.20, 12.6.20 • Cumbria CVS: Advice and Support for volunteers 9.4.20 • South Lakeland Area Support Network: newsletter 10.4.20 • CALC: Cumbria Guide on Funerals 14.4.20 • Health Watch Cumbria: Covid 19 Wellbeing and mental health booklet and suicide prevention information. 17.4.20 • Cumbria Arts and Culture Network newsletter 17.4.20 • South Lakeland Area Support Network: Emergency support 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • helpline 17.4.20 • CALC: Cumbria Community Foundation: Covid 19 response 17.4.20 • SLDC Press Release: Call for more businesses to apply for support grants • Ambleside Parish and Community Update 22.4.20, 27.5.20, 3.6.20, 10.6.20, 17.6.20 • SLDC Press Release: Looking after mental and physical health during lockdown 23.4.20 • CALC: Funding and grants bulletin 24.4.20 • CALC: Covid-19 parish council finance survey 24.4.20 • SLDC: Coronal Briefing 24.4.20 • Torver Parish Council – postponement of annual meeting 29.4.20 • Highways: Road closure C5026 Lakeside • Highways: Emergency Road Closure U5045 • SLDC Press Release: Council supporting young women facing period poverty during the Corona Crisis 6.5.20 • CALC: OK2ASK campaign for families that might be struggling 6.5.20 • Cumbria in Bloom: Newsletter 6.5.20 • South Lakeland Area Support: Information on mental wellbeing 13.5.20 • LDNPA: Urgent correspondence regarding Covid management • SLDC Press Release: Respect our communities’ message to visitors 14.5.20 • The Rune issue of Coniston and Crake Valley News 15.5.20 • Local Resilience Forum Press Release: Public urged not to visit the Lake District 15.5.20 • SLDC Press Release: Council to stage first virtual meeting 15.5.20 • SLDC Press Release: Discretionary Business Grant 15.5.20 • Torver Parish Council: May minutes 16.5.20 • South Lakeland Area Support Team: Newsletter and directory of local businesses 18.5.20 • SLDC Press Release/; Council Handyman Scheme returns 20.5.20 • Highways: Temporary Road Closure A593 20.5.20 • SLDC: Coronavirus briefing 21.5.20 • CALC: update on parish elections to LDNPA 21.5.20 • LDNPA: Covid 19 update 21.5.20 • Lakes Resilience Forum Press Release: The Lake District thanks visitors for a slow return. 22.5.20 • SLDC Press Release: Bulky waste collections are due to be reintroduced 27.5.20 • Cumbria CVS: Celebrating Volunteers week 28.5.20 • SLDC Press Release: Business Support Grants Scheme 28.5.20 • CALC: updated changes to bus services and timetables 29.5.20 • SLDC Press Release: monthly green bin collection continuing 29.5.20 • SLDC: coronavirus briefing update • CALC: Parish Council meetings and opening village halls 1.6.20 • SLDC: Discretionary Business Grant Scheme 1.6.20 • Highways: Urgent road closure U593 1.6.20 	
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195/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hawkshead Parish Council: draft minutes • Public Health England: Active at Home 2.6.20 • Cllr Steward Young, Cumbria CC: Thanking councillors and clerks for their efforts during the pandemic 2.6.20 • Cumbria Arts and Culture Network: Newsletter 5.6.20 • Lakeland Resilience Forum Press Release: Requesting that visitors act responsibly and respect communities 5.6.20 • SLDC: Briefing Update 8.6.20 • SLDC Press Release: Discretionary Business Grants 8.6.20 • Lakeland Resilience Forum: Public Health England update and guidance on wearing face masks 10.6.20 • NALC: guidance on opening council facilities 10.6.20 • CALC: Information sharing across your networks 10.6.20 • SLDC Press Release: New Board Chair elected 10.6.20 • Ian Wharton: Broughton and Coniston update 10.6.20 • Cumbria CC: Attendance at Funerals 10.6.20 • Cumbria Arts and Culture Network newsletter 11.6.20 • SLDC Press Release: Reopening the high street 11.6.20 • CALC: Cumbria Arts and Culture Network 11.6.20 • Lakeland Resilience Forum: Covid 19 testing opportunities around Cumbria 11.6.20 • SLDC Press Release: council urging continued use of online and telephone contact 11.6.20 • Highways: Seathwaite Bridge – emergency weight restrictions 12.6.20 • CALC: resumption of on and off street parking enforcement 12.6.20 • NHS Morecambe Bay: Closure of Children’s’ Ward, Royal Lancaster Infirmary 12.6.20 • CALC: update on opening community buildings 17.6.20 • South Lakeland Area Support: Christians against poverty 17.6.20 <p>RESOLVED: Cllrs noted the following correspondence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim Farron, MP. List of telephone Advice Surgeries being held for the period March and April 2020. 	
196/2020	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday, 19th July 2020 at 7.00pm on Zoom.</p>	

Meeting closed at 8:42pm

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Date

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Signed & Approved by (Chair)