

Coniston Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Coniston Parish Council Held on Zoom at 7.00pm on Monday, 15th March 2021

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

In attendance: County Councillor M Brereton, and 17 members of the public

Minute Number		Action By
144/2021	<p>Apologies</p> <p>RESOLVED: To accept apologies from Councillor Sargeant.</p>	
145/2021	<p>Requests for Dispensations</p> <p>Councillor Coward declared an interest in items relating to Lands Field and the planning application relating to 7/2021/5052 due to Mr Johnston's company handling lettings on her holiday property.</p> <p>RESOLVED: This interest was not considered substantial and did not constitute a bar to her conducting the business of the council in a fair and impartial manner.</p>	
146/2021	<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>	
147/2021	<p>Minutes</p> <p><u>Minutes of the Meeting held 15th February 2021</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th February 2021 were approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.</p>	
148/2021	<p><u>Minutes of the Meeting held 8th March 2021</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th March 2021 to identify a preferred contractor for the cleaning of the public toilets were approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.</p>	
149/2021	<p>Public Participation</p> <p><u>Lake District National Park</u></p> <p>There were no new items to add to last month's report.</p>	

County Councillor

Councillor Brereton reported on a number of issues:

- He had been kept informed of parking issues around the village which has enabled him to have up-to-date information regarding local highways issues.
- Traffic management in Coniston, Torver and Hawkshead constitute a priority for him
- He would like to be kept informed of how the flooding issues along Yewdale Road, reported by Councillor Hall at the previous meeting, progress.

District Councillors

Councillor Coward reported that, as with other agencies, the district council is preparing for the opening up of the Lake District after the long winter lockdown. Green bin recycling will begin this week.

Cumbria Constabulary

The Police have changed their way of reporting and now prepare a monthly bulletin, the 'South Lakes Focus'. This contains a great deal of information, however incidents that required police involvement in Coniston are aggregated with those from a much wider area: Coniston, Ulverston, Low Furness, Grange and Cartmel and as such do not provide usable information as to what is happening locally.

Coniston Business Forum

Mr Rutland reported that:

- The Tourist Information Centre/Business Forum had donated £500 toward the provision of flower arrangements around the village.
- Parking areas along the east of the lake are still inaccessible despite fears that this will have an impact on parking along the highway.
- Letters received from the Environment Agency regarding the danger of flooding were considered disturbing by several residents. The alarming tone rather than the factual content were more concerning to those residents who had received them.
- The next meeting of the Business Forum will be on the 24th March 2021 and will have the Director of Cumbria Tourism as guest speaker.

National Trust

Mr Moffat reported that:

- Numbers of visitors had been increasing week on week.
- Trust holiday cottages will reopen on the 12th April.
- Camp sites and indoor properties will remain closed until 17th May
- Outdoor facilities such as Hilltop Garden will open from 29th March
- Steam Yacht Gondola is back in the water and will start operating from 12th April, albeit with reduced sailings and numbers on board.
- With area specific visitor action plans, the Trust believes that it is better positioned to manage this year's challenges.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glen Mary and Tarn Hows will remain open. • Rangers are busy tree and hedge planting in response to larch and ash disease that has changed the landscape. <p><u>Councillors attending the Institute Committee meeting</u></p> <p>Councillor Hall reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a great deal of work being undertaken to celebrate Donald Campbell's 100th birthday, however, as the Institute didn't want to be seen to encourage visitors during a pandemic this information could not be shared. • There is work being undertaken that it is not possible to share at the present time in relation to the return of K7 to Coniston. • The staff at the Museum and Institute are working hard to prepare them for reopening. <p><u>Coniston Amenities Fund</u> A cheque for £60 had been raised for Coniston Co-operative Society in respect to food vouchers.</p>	
<p>150/2021</p> <p>151/2021</p> <p>152/2021</p> <p>153/2021</p>	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p><u>7/2021/5092</u> at 6, Holly How Close, Coniston, LA21 8BZ. Replace existing south facing windows and doors RESOLVED: Councillors were unable to make a determination due to lack of information.</p> <p><u>7/2021/5077</u> at Bowmanstead Studio, Bowmanstead, Coniston, LA21 8HB. Replace existing south facing windows and doors RESOLVED: Councillors had no objections to this application.</p> <p><u>7/2021/5152</u> at Storage area at Dixon Ground Farm, Coniston. Use of yard for general storage and retention of storage structures RESOLVED: Councillors had no objections to this application.</p> <p>NOTED: Councillors noted the following grants of planning permission</p> <p><u>7/2021/5056</u> at Black Beck Cottage, Coniston, LA21 8AB. Kitchen and bedroom extensions to rear</p> <p><u>7/2020/5790</u> at Brooklands, Little Langdale, Ambleside, LA22 9NT. Single Storey Garden Outbuilding</p> <p><u>7/2020/5868</u> at Holly How Youth Hostel, Coniston, LA21 8DD. Removal of an existing static caravan and replacement with lavatory and shower buildings utilising existing hard-standing and services</p> <p><u>7/2021/5045</u> at Coniston Old Hall Farm, Coniston Hall Camp Site, Haws Bank, Coniston, LA21 8AS. Construction of a sheep penning building to replace pens that the Environment Agency and Natural England want removing from the shore of Coniston Water</p>	

	<u>7/2021/5044</u> Coniston Old Hall Farm, Coniston Hall Camp Site, Haws Bank, Coniston, LA21 8AS. Roofing over yard and existing open midden to reduce water run-off from yard and midden in catchment sensitive area.	
154/2021	<p>Coniston Maintenance and Highways Issues</p> <p>NOTED: The council noted the following highways and maintenance issues in the parish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S Clarke and T Sanders will install the replacement bench on Lake Road in early April. • The bridge on Lake Road had now been repaired. • Contact is being maintained with the Lake District National Park in an effort to effect drainage and resurfacing work on the path between the village and High Waterhead. • Highways officers and Councillor Hall examined drainage issues along Yewdale Road and Little Moss. South Lakes Housing Association are to be contacted regarding a potential blockage in the drain running through Little Moss. • Drainage issues on Hawkshead Hill were inspected by Highways officers. They identified maintenance works that are to be effected during the spring and summer months. • The Parish Council notice board at Bridge Toilets is to be weatherproofed to make it more useable. • Tilberthwaite. Last year there had been serious anti-social behaviour on the unclassified road to Little Langdale. The Lake District National Park is setting up a working group to consider the matter. Despite the impact that inappropriate road use had on residents in the Coniston, Skelwith and Lakes Parish Council areas only one parish could be represented on the group. It was decided that Skelwith Parish Council would represent all three authorities. • Road marking and signage issues. Councillor Carroll had compiled a detailed list of issues, this was forwarded to Cumbria County Council in April 2019. This is to be updated in anticipation of action by the Highways authority. 	<p>MD</p> <p>MD</p> <p>ALL</p>
155/2021	<p>Bridge Toilets & Playground</p> <p>NOTED: The revised plans for the refurbishment of the toilet block at Church Beck Bridge.</p>	
156/2021	NOTED: The acceptance of the toilet cleaning contract by Jigsaw Cleaning.	
157/2021	NOTED: That the Chair had used her emergency approval to purchase parts to effect a repair to the swings on the playground.	
158/2021	<p>Climate Focus</p> <p>NOTED: the signage to communicate the wildflower project had been approved by the Get Coniston Buzzing Group; this uses artwork produced by Fiona Reeves.</p>	

<p>159/2021</p> <p>160/2021</p> <p>161/2021</p>	<p>The RHS Roots of Remembrance Project to plant trees to commemorate sacrifices made and the loss of so many people during the Covid-19 pandemic was discussed. It was agreed that the previous trees had been very large, but that replacements might be significantly smaller.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To seek the views of residents as to whether they would want to see a tree or trees planted on The Green. The clerk will place an article in the Coniston and Crake Benefice magazine and on Facebook.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To refuse the request for a flower planter to be purchased and sited by Shepherd's Bridge.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To approve payment of a £25.00 subscription to the Greening Campaign.</p>	<p>MD</p>
<p>162/2021</p>	<p>Consultations/Community Engagement</p> <p>RESOLVED: To seek the opinions of Coniston residents via Coniston and Crake Benefice Magazine and Facebook in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether the Parish Council should support The Bay proposal for Local Government Reorganisation as requested in recent correspondence, and • Whether to plant a tree or trees on the Campbell Memorial Green as part of the RHS project to plant trees in commemoration of sacrifices made and loss of so many people during the Covid-19 pandemic. <p>Councillor Troughton reported that since the last meeting Coniston Medical Practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was graded as 'good' by the Care Quality Commission in November 2020 indicating that it was performing well and meeting expectations. • Had been busy throughout the previous year due to the additional workload resulting from the pandemic even though patient numbers over the period fell. • Will be converting the Friends of Coniston Medical Practice into a Patient Participation Group in order to enable patients to become more involved and support their local practice. • A Facebook page was to be created to facilitate more effective communication. • Helen Lace was thanked for her hard work. 	<p>MD</p>
<p>163/2021</p>	<p>Lands Field</p> <p>Councillor Coward introduced the item as a public forum for debate, but not as an issue upon which the Parish Council to take a decision, as there are no applications upon which its opinion was being canvassed.</p> <p>Mr Johnston was to address the meeting to inform those present of his scheme and his rationale for it, after this there would be the opportunity to question him and to express any concerns or dissatisfaction they might have.</p>	

	<p>Mr Johnston addressed the meeting and referred to a written statement, which he indicated would be made more widely available after the meeting. He stated that he purchased Dixon Ground Farm ten years ago. In relation to the recent development he contested that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lands Field, along with the Cricket Ground, suffers poor drainage as water runs into it off Peasecroft Field. He also linked this drainage issue with flooding on Yewdale Road in February. • In 2020, Mr Johnston had taken advantage of the relaxed planning rules to use the field for temporary camping, however, the field proved unsuitable for cars and this encouraged him to undertake drainage work to address this issue. • He had recently stripped the top soil, removed surplus soil from the site, levelled areas of the field and created wide dykes filled with fresh stone that will be resurfaced with the retained top soil. • He has created an attenuation drain alongside Yewdale Road. • He considered that the wall alongside Yewdale Road was in poor repair and so removed the stone and replaced this with a temporary fence. • He stated that land is agricultural at the moment, but its future use is undecided and may well include car parking or camping. • There is existing access to the field from Coppermines Lane; however, access via Yewdale Road would require planning permission. <p>The letter from planners at the Lake District National Park was read out, this clearly stated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the extent of the work undertaken in the field was beyond that which could be necessary for agricultural purposes, • Mr Johnston’s drainage alongside the road was a breach of planning rules, and • any attempt to create an access onto Yewdale Road without planning approval would be in breach of planning. <p>The Chair instructed the clerk to forward both Mr Johnston’s and the Planners’ documents to all those present.</p> <p>There was an opportunity for those present to make statements, or to ask questions.</p> <p>In response to a question from Mrs Crisp, the Parish Council confirmed that it monitors developments such as Lands Field and liaises with the Lake District National Park to ensure they are aware of local concerns.</p> <p>The Parish Council had not engaged with discussions conducted on social media to ensure that it remained impartial in the event of the issue being subject to a planning application. Mrs Crisp observed that this position has led to a perception that the Parish Council was not listening to the concerns of residents or engaging in discussions. Councillor Troughton agreed that the Parish Council should look at how it communicates on social media to show that it is aware of issues and is working to support the best interest of the people of Coniston.</p>	MD
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	<p>Mr Rutland stated his belief that the village has insufficient parking and that the Parish Council should support Mr Johnston's efforts in order to support businesses.</p> <p>Mrs Myers corrected Mr Johnston who had incorrectly stated that Oaklands flooded as a result of run off from Peasecroft field.</p> <p>Councillor Hall observed that Lands Field had been farmed successfully without flooding until Mr Johnston began developing the field. She also corrected Mr Johnston who had incorrectly stated that the recent flooding on Yewdale Road was a result of run off from Peasecroft Field. The flooding was confirmed by Cumbria County Council's Flood and Development Manager to be a direct result of a blocked drain on the Little Moss estate that impeded drainage.</p>	
164/2021	<p>Lake District 2021</p> <p>Councillor Coward introduced the Visitor Management Action Plan. In 2020, the agencies such as Cumbria Constabulary, Lake District National Park, the National Park, Forestry England, Cumbria County Council and South Lakeland District Council had to react to circumstances as they developed. The experience 2020 informed planning over the winter and this has enabled those agencies to act in concert in a more pro-active manner to address the challenges faced by our community in 2021.</p> <p>Mr Hull addressed the Parish Council to inform them how the closure on the east of the lake had impacted Brantwood. Mr Hull did not have an objection to the objection itself, but did question the manner in which it was handled: no consultation, a blanket closure of the whole road when most of the issues were at the south end of the lake, inadequate signage and poorly briefed volunteers.</p> <p>Mr Hull made suggestions as to how issues might be addressed if problems arise this year, these included some consultation before imposing a road closure, for the road closure to apply beyond Brantwood, to ensure that signage is adequate and volunteers are briefed that Brantwood is open. Councillor Brereton committed that officers will consult before imposing any road closure in the future.</p> <p>Councillor Coward stated that Brantwood is important locally as a prestigious business, as a draw to the area, as an employer and as part of the fabric of the area. She welcomed the action plan and Councillor Brereton's commitment to making improvements on its implementation in the event of problems arising.</p>	
165/2021	<p>Coniston Parish Council Website</p> <p>RESOLVED: Councillors Troughton and Buller were asked to lead a working group to consider the potential impact a new website might have, to identify costs and to market test locally recognised website designers, and to report to the April meeting with a recommended way forward.</p>	JB, HT, MD

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ February 2021 - The Lakes & Lakes Rural ○ February 2021 - Ulverston, Low Furness, High Furness & Grange ● Rural Bulletin 23.2.21, 1.3.21, 2.3.21, 9.3.21, ● Rural Funding Digest: March 2021 ● Cumbria County Council Press Release: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mobile testing unit open in Ambleside ● Bay Health and Care Partners Press Release <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BHCP Coronavirus Update Issue 24 ● Action for Health and Mental Health Provider <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bulletin 12.2.21, 18.2.21, 8.3.21, ● CALC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Preparing for a Return Face to Face Meetings ○ Model Design Code - NALC consultation briefing ○ Skills Programme ○ Right to Regenerate consultation NALC commentary ○ Webinar - Parish and Town Councils 'Communication and Engagement in a post-lockdown world ○ Local Government Reorganisation Consultation 22 February 2021 ○ Bid Writing 101 Workshop ○ Reopening Road map announcements ○ Wildlife jobs in Cumbria ○ Letter to Parish Councils re: Management of Covid-19 ○ Agenda for the CALC meeting 4 March 2021 ○ Presentation slides Nature Recovery event 25th February ○ CALC Newsletter February/March 2021 ○ CALC Event: Four proposals for Cumbrian LGR 18th March 2021 ● South Lakeland Area Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Greening Campaign South Lakeland - Meeting Summary ○ Connect with other Carers ○ Flood Advisory Conference 23.2.21 ○ Wellbeing and Mental Health during Covid-19: Revised Guide for 2021 ○ More Covid-19 Lateral Flow Tests centres open around county ○ The Friendship Club ○ Covid19 Information and Useful Information ○ County vaccination data published ● Torver Parish Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Torver Parish Council 4th March Agenda & Minutes ● Hawkshead Parish Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ March Agenda ● Information Commissioner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Newsletter 4.3.21 ● Glynn Davies: Planning issues 25.2.21 ● Electricity North West: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Powering up recovery in Cumbria ○ Zero Carbon Communities - Join the conversation ● Howard Hull (Brantwood) ● South Lakeland Resilience Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Infections fall, but we must stay the course says Director of Public Health ○ Research into experiences of hate crime in the county ○ Lateral Flow Community Testing sites in Cumbria 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NHS staff ask public to “keep going” in fight against covid ● Action with Communities in Cumbria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ March Gazette ● Councillor T Coward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Greening Campaign open meeting Tuesday 16th February 2021 ● Councillor Ian Wharton <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LDNPA Training for farmers in relation to the new DEFRA funding scheme ○ National Park launch ‘pop up’ campsite guide ● Cumbria Action for Sustainability: Events ● Charlotte Crisp: Query regarding Lands Field ● North West Air Ambulance: request for financial support ● NHS University Hospital of Morecambe Bay: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mortuary Services at Westmorland General Hospital ● Cumbria Highways: Holbeck Bridge repairs March 2021 ● Environment Agency: Letter to North West Action Group ● Lake District National Park Authority: Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 7/2021/5092 at 6, Holly How Close, Coniston, LA21 8BZ 	
171/2021	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday, 19th April 2021 7.00pm on Zoom.</p>	

Meeting closed at 9.05pm

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Date

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Signed & Approved by (Chair)