

## Coniston Parish Council

### Minutes of the Meeting of Coniston Parish Council Held on Zoom at 7.00pm on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021

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

**In attendance:** County Councillor M Brereton, and 11 members of the public

Minute Number		Action By
172/2021	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
173/2021	<p><b>Requests for Dispensations</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
174/2021	<p><b>Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of Agenda items</b></p> <p>All Councillors as Custodian Trustees of the Coniston Institute and Ruskin Museum.</p> <p>Councillor Hall declared an interest in a planning item 'Fairfield Cottage'.</p> <p>Councillor Coward will not take part in any discussion regarding Lands Field, as Mr Johnston, the developer, owns a letting agency, which handles the letting of Councillor Coward's holiday cottage.</p>	
175/2021	<p><b>Minutes</b></p> <p><u>Minutes of the Meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021</u></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.</p>	
176/2021	<p><b>Public Participation</b></p> <p><u>Lake District National Park</u></p> <p>There were no new items to add to last month's report. A request had been made to the Authority to install temporary toileting facilities at Old Furness Road in order to forestall a public health problem. The clerk was instructed to write to the Authority to support this request, but also to support better signage to direct visitors to the area to the nearest public conveniences.</p>	MD

County Councillor

Councillor Brereton reported on a number of issues:

- Helen Karaaslan has agreed a twin track approach to Parish Council issues: urgent issues can be flagged up and treated as a priority whilst longer-term issues will be included in an area-wide basis for inclusion in wider TROs.
- B4RN a new scheme started in April 2021. This would be a great time to register interest for domestic and commercial vouchers toward installation of an improved broadband network. Cllr Brereton is keen for residents and businesses in Coniston and Torver to work together.
- Blueworks (Phil Halliwell) has won the contract to continue to support providing the X112 bus service. There have also been improvements to connectivity around south Furness with additional bus services linking Millom, Haverigg and Broughton.
- Councillor Brereton thanked Councillor Hall for her work over the years on both the parish and district councils for the people of Coniston.

District Councillors

Councillor Coward reported that, the district council is supporting businesses and communities during the reopening of the Lakes and the relaxation of enforcement. A number of marshals have been employed to undertake a range of roles for example issuing fixed penalty notices, and providing additional security in 'hot spot' areas.

The District Council is providing a range of 'welcome back' grants to help businesses re-open in the non-essential hospitality and leisure sector.

National Trust

Mr Moffat reported that:

- There were no empty properties in the parish.
- Numbers of visitors had been increasing but outdoor sights remained relatively quiet.
- Trust holiday cottages and campsite will reopen on the 17<sup>th</sup> May.
- Steam Yacht Gondola is back in the water and had made a busy start to the season, the good weather coupled with the reduced numbers allowed on board made social distancing easier.

Coniston Business Forum

There is no report other than to note that they are collating responses from local businesses in relation to Mr Johnston's proposed development of Lands Field. To date there had only been four responses all of which were in support.

Councillors attending the Institute Committee meeting

Councillor Hall reported that:

- The celebrations to commemorate Donald Campbell's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday



diversification scheme

- There would be four shepherds' huts on Barnfield on Dixon Ground Farm.
- He has supported rewilding on other parts of the farm, in particular The Scrow.
- The route is already well lit and busy, as it leads to the Hydro-Electricity plant, Coniston Stonecraft and is one of the major routes to the Old Man. Highways are in support of the development. In addition, it is not a quiet residential area due to the proximity to Usher Joinery and The Sun Hotel.
- The Lake District National Park consider Dixon Ground Farm to be a farm, never having fewer than 50 sheep, and therefore suitable for farm diversification projects.
- He believed that those who have already submitted objections have done so out of a personal animus rather than on the merits or demerits of the application.

#### Mr Davies

- Mr Johnston's allegations that people are acting in concert against him are unfounded.
- The document, as far as he had been able to scrutinise it in the short period of time since it had been distributed, was full of inaccuracies.
- Councillors confirmed that they had received Mr Davies' written statement and the issues he raised in this would be taken into account.

#### Parish Councillors' observations

- The application stated that work hadn't commenced, however, this isn't the case
- Similarly, the application stated that hours of opening were not relevant, however, by the very nature of letting shepherd's huts the development would be open 24 hours a day, every day of the week. This must inevitably generate noise and disturbance.
- Although highways have submitted a response to the consultation, it was clear that this would increase traffic on an already busy side road.
- The Highways response did not address the issue of pedestrian safety.
- The development was framed as part of a farm diversification project, however, it was not clear that farming was the core business:
  - Lands Field was being developed, possibly as a car park,
  - Foul Scrow is set aside for conservation projects,
  - the farmhouse had been sold as a private dwelling,
  - the farm buildings had been converted into a commercial laundry for the applicant's letting agency,
  - the applicant stated earlier in the meeting that there were only 50 sheep being farmed.
- It is the role of development in the Lake District National Park to conserve and preserve the character and beauty of the natural beauty of the landscape. Developments should only be permitted in exceptional circumstances, but none had been put forward.

<p><b>180/2021</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Parish Council would like the National Park to perform due diligence to examine the farm's account for the last three years to determine that it is in fact an agricultural enterprise and not an adjunct to a tourist and/or land development company.</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Councillors voted unanimously to object to this application.</p> <p><u>7/2021/5262</u> at The Keld, Coniston, LA21 8AG Demolition of an existing house and construction of a new dwelling.</p>	<p>MD</p>
<p><b>181/2021</b></p>	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Councillors had no objections to this application.</p>	<p>MD</p>
<p><b>182/2021</b></p>	<p><b>NOTED:</b> Councillor noted the following planning application, submitted by the Planning Authority for information only.</p>	
<p><b>183/2021</b></p>	<p><b>NOTED:</b> Councillors noted the following grants of planning permission</p>	
<p><b>183/2021</b></p>	<p><u>7/2021/5173</u> Land off Yewdale Road, Coniston, LA21 8DT Approval of details reserved by conditions number 2 (Street lighting) and 7 (Landscaping) on planning permission ref 7/2020/5495 - Amendment to windows: condition 13 on planning permission 7/2019/5177: Seven affordable units</p>	
<p><b>183/2021</b></p>	<p><u>7/2021/5092</u> at 6, Holly How Close, Coniston, LA21 8BZ. Replace existing south facing windows and doors</p>	
<p><b>183/2021</b></p>	<p><u>7/2021/5077</u> at Bowmanstead Studio, Bowmanstead, Coniston, LA21 8HB. Replace existing south facing windows and doors</p>	
<p><b>184/2021</b></p>	<p><b>Coniston Maintenance and Highways Issues</b></p> <p><b>NOTED:</b> The council noted the following highways and maintenance issues in the parish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S Clarke and T Sanders will install the replacement bench on Lake Road in April.</li> <li>The Lake District National Park has confirmed that, subject to operational demands, work to repair drainage and resurfacing the path between the village and High Waterhead is scheduled for May/June.</li> <li>Repair of the surface of the layby at the entrance to the retail park on Lake Road is scheduled along with the work on the path (above)</li> <li>Drainage issues along Yewdale Road and Little Moss are ongoing. South Lakes Housing Association are investigating the drainage running through their land to ensure that it is not causing an obstruction.</li> <li>Drainage issues along Hawkshead Hill are an ongoing issue. South Lakeland District Council have cleared the gullies and Cumbria County Council is awaiting an appropriate time to clear the gullies and take other actions to ensure that water does not discharge onto the road.</li> <li>A draft schedule of work to improve highways, drainage, and to upgrade the appearance of the village, to this was added drainage and verge maintenance at Far End and repainting the handrail to The Banks. All councillors are asked to submit matters to this schedule.</li> </ul>	<p>ALL</p>

185/2021	<p><b>Parish Report</b></p> <p><b>NOTED:</b> The report covering a two year period between April 2019 and March 2021 was presented to the Parish Council. This contains an introductory letter from the Chair, an overview of the Parish Council's actions, including responding to planning applications, and an overview of accounts. This report will be included in the May Coniston and Crake magazine.</p>	
186/2021	<p><b>Climate Focus</b></p> <p><b>NOTED:</b> the wildflower area on the Green will have an information board erected by Sam Clarke, the artwork for this was produced by Fiona Reeves and it seeks to describe and explain the wildflower project.</p>	
187/2021	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> For the Clerk to write to the Environment Agency informing them that the alarmist tone of their recent letter alerting residents and businesses to flood risk recently was not appropriate.</p>	MD
188/2021	<p><b>Consultations/Community Engagement</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To seek the opinions of Coniston residents via Coniston and Crake Benefice Magazine and Facebook in relation to:</p> <p>A. Whether the Parish Council should support The Bay proposal for Local Government Reorganisation as requested in recent correspondence,</p> <p>It was clear that all four proposals had strengths and weaknesses, and that there was no clear view which would enable the Parish Council to support or oppose any of them. It was equally clear that this is an emotive issue and the Chair encouraged all people individually to engage in the consultation being undertaken by central government.</p> <p>B. 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> <p>This also stimulated considerable debate. Although there were voices both in favour and against tree planting on The Green it was decided that increased diversification and beautification of the area could be achieved without tree planting. There were alternative locations to plant the tree suggested e.g. at the Tourist Information Centre, or indeed to consider creating a garden specifically themed for contemplation and thoughtfulness which were the aims of the RHS project. The Chair to take this matter forward with the Tourist Information Centre.</p>	TC
189/2021	<p><b>Coniston Parish Council Website</b></p> <p>The working group reported to the progress it had made in determining whether a new website was required, a design concept and a preferred supplier.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To engage the preferred supplier to design, and support the launch of a new website</p>	HT, JB, MD

190/2021	<p><b>Shire of Dumbleyung</b></p> <p>The Shire President of Dumbleyung has written suggesting that the shared civic historical connections of Coniston and Dumbleyung be formalised into a town twinning arrangement. Councillor Hall spoke warmly of the connections between the two areas, and volunteered the Ruskin Museum to explore how town twinning would work in practice, and how meaningful relationships could be fostered.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To support the proposal, for Councillor Hall to ask the Ruskin Museum to take a lead, and to report back to future meetings.</p>	AH
191/2021	<p><b>Home Group</b></p> <p>Unfortunately, Mr Ian Thompson was not in attendance, an invitation to the next meeting will be extended.</p>	MD
192/2021	<p><b>Parish Council Meetings</b></p> <p>The clerk briefed the Parish Council informing them that the legislation, which had enabled meetings to be held virtually, would cease to operate after 7<sup>th</sup> May. This will result in the May meeting being held face-to-face at the Coniston Institute despite the problematic nature of such a meeting in a time of ongoing pandemic. It is hoped that a court case will enable councils to continue to conduct business virtually. A more detailed report will be presented at the May meeting.</p>	
193/2021	<p><b>Councillor Matters</b></p> <p><u>Councillor Sargeant</u></p> <p>Raised the issue of the rights of way through Heathwaite Farm being reported to have been restricted. This was recognised as an important issue. The clerk was instructed to write to remind the owners of the need to respect rights of way, and to direct them to the appropriate authority if they desired an adjustment to the existing right of way.</p> <p>Councillor Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A reminder that we need to use outlying post boxes to stop the Post Office removing them, as they did at Waterhead last year.</li> <li>• There is a concern that non-essential lights are being left on in the village through the night. Parish Council streetlights use LED, but many lights are getting brighter. The parish was looking to focus on 'dark skies', an ambition which could be undermined until this concern is shared.</li> <li>• Coniston Carers are moving into their new offices at Coniston Institute, but more work is required. This would make a suitable subject for support from the Coniston Amenities Fund.</li> <li>• Helen Hoyle has been appointed as governor at Coniston Primary School.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>194/2021</b></p> <p><b>195/2021</b></p>	<p><b>Financial Matters</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To note the receipt the following receipts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• none</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To authorise payment of the following accounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr M Dearnley £365.40</li> <li>• Mr M Dearnley (Home Working Allowance) £20.00</li> <li>• Mr M Dearnley (stationary) £12.27</li> <li>• Royal Images £120.00</li> <li>• South Lakeland District Council (new bin) £300.00</li> <li>• CALC annual subscription £209.61</li> <li>• Sunflower Project £79.46</li> <li>• Water Plus (Direct Debit) £379.74</li> <li>• Information Commissioner (Direct Debit) £35.00</li> <li>• EON (Direct Debit) £52.89</li> </ul>	
<p><b>196/2021</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>• SLDC Press Release: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ulverston youngsters welcome new-look play area</li> <li>○ New cases drop by a quarter, as Director of Public Health urges “Get the vaccine when it’s offered”</li> <li>○ Next step agreed towards Grange Lido and Promenade rejuvenation</li> <li>○ Bin wagon artwork competition winners revealed</li> <li>○ SLDC Locality Services - March Town and Parish Councils Newsletter</li> <li>○ Pop up campsites briefing note</li> <li>○ ‘Remember the rules’ says Director of Public Health, as Cumbria sees small increase in cases</li> <li>○ Local Resilience Forum news release - Arrangements in place to welcome back visitors</li> <li>○ Support scheme now open for parents and guardians unable to work when children advised to self-isolate</li> <li>○ Cumbria County Council: Cumbria moves into COVID-19 recovery phase</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Cumbria Constabulary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Coronavirus update 12.3.21, 19.3.21, 26.3.21, 1.4.21</li> <li>○ Poaching</li> <li>○ March 2021 - The Lakes &amp; Lakes rural newsletter</li> <li>○ March 2021 - Ulverston, Low Furness, High Furness &amp; Grange</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Rural Bulletin 16.3.21, 30.3.21, 7.4.21, 13.4.21</li> <li>• Water Association Meeting</li> <li>• Keswick 2 Barrow Walk 2021</li> <li>• Cumbria Local Government Reorganisation: Letter from Leader of Eden Council</li> <li>• Coast to Coast in a Day Cycle Sportive - Saturday 26th June</li> <li>• Bay Hospitals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ School launches 'Operation Gratitude' to thank Royal Lancaster Infirmary staff</li> <li>○ BHCP Coronavirus Update Issue 25</li> <li>○ Rural Funding Digest: April 2021</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Cumbria CVS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Focus on Funding Update - 16 March 2021</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Census Support Centres</li> <li>○ Cumbria VCFSE Sector Survey 2021</li> <li>● Cumbria in Bloom March 2021</li> <li>● Cumbria County Council Press Release: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New COVID-19 cases drop by half in Cumbria</li> <li>○ Cumbria County Council Environment Fund and Green Recovery</li> <li>○ Caution urged as lockdown restrictions set to ease</li> <li>○ Cumbria County Council Highways Feedback Survey Results and Reports</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Cumbria County Council Bridge Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Shop Bridge strengthening works: Resident update letter</li> <li>○ Holbeck Bridge repair works - March 2021</li> </ul> </li> <li>● CALC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Parish Member Election to the LDNPA</li> <li>○ Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership update email</li> <li>○ Follow up Information from the Local Government Reorganisation Event 18 March</li> <li>○ Star Council Awards 2021</li> <li>○ Cumbria Arts &amp; Culture Network Newsletter 30th March 2021</li> <li>○ Cumbria Arts and Culture Network Newsletter 7th April 2021</li> <li>○ The Forth Bridge Protocol during a pandemic</li> <li>○ Operation Forth Bridge &amp; books of condolence</li> </ul> </li> <li>● South Lakeland Area Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Young Persons Opportunity Fund</li> <li>○ Community Leaders Pack</li> <li>○ Cumbria CVS and Lake District National Park Authority Volunteer Information Session</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Torver Parish Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ March Minutes and April Agenda</li> <li>○ April Minutes</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Hawkshead Parish Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ March Minutes</li> <li>○ Extra-ordinary meeting Agenda</li> <li>○ Cancellation of April meeting</li> <li>○ Notice of Vacancy</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Westmorland Red Squirrels E-News</li> <li>● NW Coastal Access Update 31st March 2021</li> <li>● Lakes Parish Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Agenda 29th March and Minutes 14 December</li> <li>○ Lake District National Park: Letter regarding management of covid 19</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Keep Britain Tidy: Great British Spring Clean</li> <li>● David Jackson: Lands Field</li> <li>● National Association of Civic Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ NACO Newsletter 090421(2)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Coniston Business forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Invitation to a Zoom meeting 24.3.21</li> <li>○ Positional Statement from Bill Smith</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Rusland Horizons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ March Newsletter</li> <li>○ Atlantic Woodland</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Cumbria Highways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reactivation Road Closure - A5092 Spark Bridge</li> <li>○ Reactivation Road Closure - A5084 Water Yeat</li> <li>○ Letter from the Shire of Dumbleyung</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
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<b>197/2021</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>  The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday, 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 7.00pm at the Coniston Institute.	
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Meeting closed at 9.20pm

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Date

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Signed & Approved by (Chair)