

Coniston Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Coniston Parish Council Held on Zoom at 7.00pm on Monday, 17th August 2020

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

In attendance: Five members of the public. Also in attendance were District Councillor I Wharton, and PCSO D Ross

Minute Number		Action By
	Apologies	
222/2020	RESOLVED: Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor K Batty, and County Councillor M Brereton.	
	Requests for Dispensations	
223/2020	No requests received.	
	Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of Agenda items	
224/2020	All Councillors as Custodian Trustees of the Coniston Institute and Ruskin Museum. Councillor Hall declared an interest in item the planning item 6.1 7/2020/5190 Fairfield Cottage.	
	Minutes of Meetings held 22nd June 2020	
225/2020	RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 th July 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.	
226/2020	<p>Public Participation</p> <p><u>County Councillor</u></p> <p>County Councillor Brereton submitted an apology, but submitted a report which indicated that work was continuing in relation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to parking and driving related issues, • the reinstatement of yellow lines around the village, and • the movement of the road closure order relating to the east of the lake to an 18-month experimental phase during which the restriction might be lifted, eased or modified. <p><u>District Councillors</u></p> <p><u>Councillor Coward</u> acknowledged the good work that Councillor Hall had performed in her twenty years as a district councillor, especially in relation to housing as a true representative for the local community. Councillor Hall thanked Councillor Coward and confirmed that she is prepared to continue to work for her community in other capacities.</p>	

	<p>Over 1,000 small businesses failed to claim the small business grant, there will be one last push to reach out to these businesses before the closing date.</p> <p>There are Green Grants which Councillor Coward will apply for in relation to the installation of LED lighting</p> <p><u>Councillor Wharton</u> reported that behaviour and attitudes in a small proportion of visitors to the National Park were becoming more aggressive. As a result of closing the road to the east of the lake, the situation has not been as bad in Coniston as elsewhere in the Lake District, however, there are still high levels of litter, fly camping and petty vandalism. Incidents of illegal parking and camping are to be reported using the National Park email address.</p> <p>Councillor Carroll reported that parking has been an issue along the stretch of road between Blawith and Sunny Bank and there is need for a consistent and strong message to be made.</p> <p>Councillor Troughton suggested that other parish councils around the lake should be involved, and Councillor Coward observed that the Water Association could help to co-ordinate a common response.</p> <p>Councillor Wharton ended his report by indicating that there is to be a major multi-agency operation around Coniston Water throughout the August Bank Holiday weekend.</p> <p><u>Cumbria Constabulary</u></p> <p>PCSO D Ross reported that for the period 20th July 2020 to 17th August 2020 there were 15 incidents of particular note in the Coniston area. These are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 incidents of anti-social behaviour • 1 crime of theft of machinery • 1 crime of criminal damage • 1 slight injury resulting from a road traffic collision involving a cyclist • 1 damage resulting from a road traffic collision • 1 highway disruption • 1 crime of theft from a motor vehicle • 1 report of a suspicious vehicle <p>The constabulary would like to remind people that in these unprecedented times and with increased visitor numbers to the area that residents should remain vigilant, to secure valuable items and to report incidents. Reporting non-urgent matters via 101 or email service is encouraged.</p> <p>Operations are continuing to carry out operations with other agencies and targeting rural crime and anti-social behaviour in the Coniston area.</p> <p>In relation to the disturbances at Ruskin Avenue there had been 6 incidents and 1 crime logged. It is recommended that residents maintain a diary to help identify a pattern, but it was also suggested that security lighting, CCTV, a barrier, and closing the toilets would all have an impact on the issue.</p>	<p>.</p> <p>TC</p>
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	<p><u>Lake District National Park Authority</u></p> <p>Mr Hill was not able to attend the meeting, however, he did indicate via email that no progress had been made in relation to the issues detailed at previous meetings.</p> <p><u>National Trust</u></p> <p>Mr J Moffat was unable to attend the meeting; however, he submitted a report briefing the meeting on issues impacting on the Trust and its work.</p> <p>An overview of operations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All countryside car parks and toilets are open; staff are working to manage the challenges around behaviour, litter, damage, parking etc. • Wray Castle grounds, car park and café remain open. • Hill Top garden and shop are open, but usage is down. • Steam Yacht Gondola is running, but on reduced numbers and pattern. • Indoor visits to Wray Castle, Hill Top, and the Beatrix Potter Gallery are not open and are unlikely to open this year. • Approximately 70% of staff are on furlough. <p>The Trust has lost £200,000,000 in revenue so far this year, in response it has reduced spending, and accessed government support via the furlough, loan and grant schemes. However, in an attempt to identify a future that protects core conservation and public facing work it is undertaking a consultation on a savings programme which is likely to result in significant staff redundancies and a contraction on the extent of the service it provides at present. This consultation process is due to be completed by early October.</p> <p><u>Coniston Business Forum</u></p> <p>Mr R Rutland, the Chair of the Business Forum was unable to attend the meeting. He has been invited to attend the next meeting and has been forwarded a number of questions that the Council would like to discuss.</p> <p><u>Councillors attending the Institute Committee meeting</u></p> <p>Councillor Carroll reported that a new curator, Julian Barnes, has been appointed. The refurbishment of the toilets is nearing completion. Discussions regarding Bluebird are ongoing. Councillor Hall added that although attendance is 50% of the position last year, this is better than many other similar establishments and that Tracy Hodgson and the staff are working hard to make the Institute and Museum work well.</p>	
<p>227/2020</p>	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>7/2020/5444 10, Beck Yeat, Coniston, LA21 8HT Demolish rear conservatory and build single storey front and rear extensions RESOLVED: Councillors had no objection to the application</p> <p>7/2020/5392 Coppermines Cottage, Coniston, LA21 8HP Replacing septic tank with a water treatment plant and an outlet pipe to discharge into nearby Red Dell Beck RESOLVED: Councillors supported the application</p>	

<p>228/2020</p>	<p>7/2020/5190 Fairfield Cottage, Tilberthwaite Avenue, Coniston, LA21 8ED Domestic extension RESOLVED: Councillors supported the application</p> <p>7/2020/5334 The Blue Bird Cafe, Coniston, LA21 8AN Replace canvas parasols with fixed glass canopy over existing terrace seating area RESOLVED: Councillors had no objections</p> <p>RESOLVED: Councillors noted the following grants of Planning Permission</p> <p>7/2020/5286 4 Holly How Close, Yewdale Road, Coniston, LA21 8BZ Erection of dwellinghouse (amendment to plot 4 of planning permission reference 7/2016/5685)</p> <p>7/2020/5339 Haws Bank Cottage, Haws Bank, Coniston, LA21 8AP Non-material amendment to planning approval reference 7/2019/5193</p>	
<p>229/2020</p>	<p>RESOLVED: Councillors noted the following refusal of Planning Permission</p> <p>7/2020/5314 Bowmanstead Studio, Bowmanstead, Coniston, LA21 8HB Replacement of existing windows and doors in the south elevations with double glazed windows and doors</p>	
<p>230/2020</p>	<p>Coniston Maintenance and Highways Issues</p> <p><u>Lengthsman</u></p> <p>Partially as a result of the poor weather, Mr Workman has not undertaken activities in Coniston during the period since the last meeting.</p> <p>Although this is a responsibility of the National Trust, the Parish Council has asked Mr Workman to clear a path along the old railway line that had been reported as overgrown.</p> <p>Mr Workman's contract operates between the months of April and September, although he is prepared to work during October in order to support Coniston to prepare for winter. Drainage issues are the key area of focus for the next couple of months. Areas of particular concern are Walna Scar Road, and after that other roads leading off the fell and the road to the east of the lake.</p> <p>Councillor Hall indicated that there is a plaque to be fixed to the renovated bench at the Head of the Lake.</p> <p>There are a number of blocked gullies e.g. outside the toilet block and the Tourist Information Centre that need to be reported to the County Council via the portal to ensure that they are addressed.</p> <p><u>Other Highways issues in the Parish</u></p> <p>The Council noted the constructive partner working with Cumbria County Council which has addressed drainage issues at Park Gate and Haws Bank; Days Bank/Cat Bank/Gateside Cottages.</p> <p>A date has been set to meet with a representative of the Home Group to discuss property maintenance matters. Councillor Carroll will invite a member of the</p>	<p>JC</p>

	<p>Torver Parish Council to attend and Home Group have properties in both parishes.</p> <p>The National Trust had trimmed the hedge around Pier Cottage Corner and at the Head of the Lake making pedestrian crossing safer.</p> <p>The memorial bench at the top of Lake Road is subject to an ongoing insurance claim.</p> <p>The footpath alongside the B5285 is to be reported to the Lake District National Park. This matter had been raised with the National Park before lockdown, but the matter needs to be addressed before winter rains flood the path.</p> <p>A hedge on Tilberthwaite Avenue had been allowed to grow to take over too great an area of the pavement making social distancing difficult without walking on the road. The clerk is to investigate to identify how this might be resolved.</p>	<p>MD</p> <p>MD</p>
231/2020	<p>Bridge Toilets and Playground on Lake Road</p> <p>Councillor Coward introduced the playground's annual safety inspection report. She noted that there were a small number of minor issues, but nothing significant. Coniston Groundcare will be instructed to powerwash the play equipment. Councillor Coward will conduct a monthly checklist prepared by ROSPA Playsafe to ensure that the playground is in good order.</p> <p>The parish council was awarded a grant of £10,000 from the small business grant scheme. This money will, as far as possible, be ring-fenced to enable the refurbishment and refit of the toilets to proceed as planned. A LIPS grant will also be applied for.</p>	<p>TC</p> <p>TC</p>
232/2020	<p>Streetlighting</p> <p>RESOLVED: The councillors discussed the quotes received for the replacement of the inoperative sodium lights for LED lights and identified a preferred supplier. The clerk was instructed to request that the work be completed as soon as reasonably practical.</p>	<p>MD</p>
233/2020	<p>Climate Focus</p> <p>RESOLVED: Councillors noted that the issue of extreme mud in School Beck as a result of lumbering operations reported to the Environment Agency and addressed.</p>	
234/2020	<p>RESOLVED: Councillors noted that the work to alter a part of the Campbell Memorial Green to introduce flowering turf and wildflowers will take place in mid September. An information board is being designed by Fiona Reeves.</p>	
235/2020	<p>Consultations</p> <p>RESOLVED: that Councillor Hall lead the development of a response to the Planning for the Future consultation on changes to the planning system.</p>	<p>AH</p>
236/2020	<p>RESOLVED: Councillors noted that the removal of the BT payphone on Ruskin Avenue was likely, as no calls had been made from it during the past twelve months.</p>	

<p>237/2020</p>	<p>Car Parking and Traffic Enforcement</p> <p>Mrs N Kennedy addressed the meeting in relation to a number of issues relating to antisocial behaviour and police responses to matters raised via the Cumbria Constabulary's 101 telephone and email response service. She expressed four main concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • although incidents had been logged there was no response from the police to feedback in relation to the incidents • there appears to be a lack of police presence in Coniston which causes concern for the safety of villagers, including those who confront those acting in an antisocial way, • a lack of community engagement in relation to a regularly occurring problem at the Ruskin Avenue Car Park, • a lack of response from the Lake District National Park who have left the public toilets open and the car park unsecured. <p>PCSO D Ross was in attendance and addressed some of these issues and invited Mrs Kennedy to forward her observations so that the matter might be shared and addressed. Councillor Wharton also wanted a copy of the email so that he might share it with the Lake District National Park to better inform the proposal to close the toilets at a reasonable time and to install CCTV at Ruskin Avenue, Monk Coniston and Brown How Car Parks.</p> <p>Mr P Johnson addressed the meeting and outlined how the lockdown and following months had impacted upon his business. There had been a significant reduction in turnover; however, the success of the pop-up camp at Lands Field had helped. He thanked the police for their help with the parking issues, but expressed his concern about the loss of parking if more parking restrictions are imposed on roads in and around the village. He suggested establishing a local resident parking zone along Coppermines Lane. Mr Johnson also raised the issue that when the Lake District National Park was approached to allow him to park parking with hard standing to be established at Lands Field this was denied. Coppermines conservation work is still ongoing.</p> <p>Councillor Carroll responded by informing the meeting that all measures being considered were to increase the safety of pedestrians and drivers in and around the village. In particular, the upgrade from single to double yellow lines was for safety reasons, but this would result in only very limited loss of parking places. Councillor Hall added that some parking along by the doctor's surgery to Gateside was the result of holidaymakers not being prepared to park up at their holiday cottages on the Banks.</p>	<p>NK/MD</p>
<p>238/2020</p>	<p>Events</p> <p>Mr P Blaylock, Lakeland Trails, described how the government has issued guidelines and that these had been factored into the event's risk assessment. Elements of risk management include reducing the number of participants, staggering starts to minimise queues at the start and along the route, regular sanitising, wearing of facemasks at the start and key points along the route. Runners have been asked to monitor their health, to avoid high-risk activities and to stay away if they are unwell. This was trialled in Keswick and Cartmel. There will be no children's races this year and it is hoped that runners do not come with large numbers of supporters. The organisers are remaining vigilant monitoring government advice and conditions which might impact on safety.</p>	

	<p>Councillor Coward reported that she had spoken with the organisers of the Epic Events swim. The event went smoothly, but there had been some disruption from a local resident being abrupt with members of staff in attendance. Councillor Carroll indicated that he was relieved the event did not increase footfall in the village to the point where the village could not accommodate additional visitors.</p> <p>Councillor Troughton informed the meeting that the K2B walk has been cancelled for this year.</p>	
239/2020	<p>Personnel Committee</p> <p>RESOLVED: To award a Home Working Allowance to the clerk of £20 per month backdated to April 2020.</p>	
240/2020	<p>Councillor Matters</p> <p><u>Councillor Hall</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanked the council for flowers • Beck Yeat residents want a 'residents only' sign • Observed that, despite allowing those paying for fuel to go to the front of the queue, Hills Garage had very long queues strung along the forecourt. <p><u>Councillor Coward</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recent litter-pick was successful and proved to be a positive experience for all those who took part. <p><u>Councillor Thompson</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruskin Avenue car park had been quiet during the past week. <p><u>Councillor Carroll</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although there is no requirement to produce an Annual Report due to the additional work generated by the Covid-19 pandemic it was identified as being something that should be produced as a record of events during the year. • The picnic tables by the Boating Centre had all been repurposed for the exclusive use of Bluebird Café. This matter will be raised with Simon Hill, Lake District National Park to identify which picnic tables should remain free for all users. • Stonethwaite Camp Site had closed due to the misbehaviour of campers; hopefully this message will make the minority of people who do not respect the area in which they are visiting adapt their behaviour. • Planning have confirmed that the proposed statute of Sir Donald Campbell and Leo Villa OBE is a permitted development. 	
241/2020	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>RESOLVED: To note receipt of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	

242/200	<p>RESOLVED: To authorise payment of the following accounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M Dearnley £284.60 • HMRC £71.00 • ROSPA Play Safety £139.20 • E.ON (Streetlights) £78.18 	
243/2020	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>RESOLVED: Cllrs noted the following e-mails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the following e-mails received since the last meeting: • PSE Bulletin 16.7.20 • CALC: Feedback survey for Care Quality Commission 16.7.20 • Cumbria Arts and Culture Network Newsletter 16.7.20 • CALC: Temporary reduction in VAT for hospitality • SLDC Press Release: Council Tax Hardship Fund 17.7.20 • PSE: Allocation of £500,000,000 for councils 17.7.20 • SLDC Press Release – Green Business Start Up Programme 17.7.20 • South Lakeland Area Support Newsletter 17.7.20 • SLDC: Cumbria Weekly Health Protection Board – Covid 19 Summary 17.7.20 • Cumbria Constabulary: Coronavirus update 17.7.20, 24.7.20, 31.7.20 • Highways – Temporary road closure A5084 Water Yeat 18.7.20 • CALC: NALC Chief Executives Bulletin on holding public meetings 20.7.20 • Action for Health and Mental Health Bulletin 20.7.20 • PSE Bulletin 20.7.20 • SLDC Council Agenda 20.7.20 • Hawkshead Parish Council: Public Meeting Cancelled 20.7.20 • Rural Bulletin 21.7.20 • PSE: Pay rise for public sector 21.7.20 • SLDC Press Release – Kendal clock stops 21.7.20 • SLDC Press Release – Morecambe Bay Partnership to be considered in devolution talks 23.7.20 • Hawkshead Parish Council Agenda 23.7.20 • CALC: LDNPA letter about Covid-19 Management 24.7.20 • Environment Agency update regarding flood warning service 24.7.20 • CALC Cumbria local nature partnership news 24.7.20 • Cumbria CC Press Release: Covid 19 on the increase in Carlisle 24.7.20 • SLDC Press Release: Electoral Registration update 24.7.20 • Cumbria CC Highways: Highways Asset Management Strategy 2020-2025 27.7.20 • CALC: Chief Executive's Bulletin 27.7.20 • SLDC Press Release: Parking 28.7.20 • Cllr Anne Hall: Resignation from SLDC 29.7.20 • Cumbria Arts and Culture Network Newsletter 30.7.20 • SLDC Press Release: Flood Management Project 30.7.20 • SLDC: invitation to a virtual meeting on climate change 30.7.20 • Mental Health Provider Forum Meeting 30.7.20 • Dr Colin Cox Director of Public Health: Letter 30.7.20 • SLDC: Pavement Licensing 30.7.20 • Highways: urgent road closure A5084 30.7.20 • CALC: Outbreak Control Communications Toolkit 31.7.20 • Action for Health and Mental Health Provider Forum Bulletin 31.7.20 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDNPA Press Release: Respect Protect Enjoy 31.7.20 • SLDC Press Release: Progress toward carbon neutral 31.7.20 • Torver Parish Council Agenda 1.8.20 • NHS Foundation Trust Coronavirus Issue 9 1.8.20 • PSE News 3.8.20 • Rural Services Network: Bulletin 3.8.20 • CALC: Great Cumbrian Litter Pick 3.8.20 • Rural Services Network: Rural Funding Digest 5.8.20 • South Lakeland Area Support – Focus on Funding 5.8.20 • SLDC Press Release – support grants 6.8.20 • Cumbrian Arts and Culture Network Newsletter 6.8.20 • SLDC Press Release: Climate Change Community Fund 6.8.20 • PSE: Weekend Roundup 9.8.20 • South Lakeland Area Support: Shielding Guidance 10.8.20 • NALC: Chief Executive’s Bulletin 11.8.20 • SLDC Press Release – footbridge in Cartmel 11.8.20 	
244/2020	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday, 21st September 7.00pm on Zoom.</p>	

Meeting closed at 8:58pm

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Date

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Signed & Approved by (Chair)

