

Coniston Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Coniston Parish Council Held on Zoom at 7.00pm on Monday, 18th January 2021

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

In attendance: County Councillor M Brereton, R Rutland & H Kilgour (Coniston Business Forum)
Four members of the public

| Minute Number | | Action By |
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| 100/2021 | <p>Apologies</p> <p>RESOLVED: Apologies received and accepted from Councillor Ian Wharton.</p> | |
| 101/2021 | <p>Requests for Dispensations</p> <p>No requests received.</p> | |
| 102/2021 | <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> | |
| 103/2021 | <p>Minutes of Meetings held 21st December 2020</p> <p>RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st December 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.</p> | |
| 104/2021 | <p>Public Participation</p> <p><u>County Councillor</u></p> <p>Councillor Brereton reported on a number of issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term highway issues continue to be pursued; Councillor Brereton is hoping to secure a site visit to move things forward. • People should be encouraged to report pot-holes via the portal and to Councillor Brereton if there is no progress. • The Broughon to Coniston road was particularly icy and a gritter is to be dispatched as soon as possible. There is a winter maintenance programme for gritting, refilling grit bins, etc. please report to the County Council via the portal if anything is amiss • Is hoping for Coniston and Torver Parish Councils could work together to promote the roll out of superfast Broadband using B4RN. <p><u>District Councillors</u></p> <p>Councillor Coward described how South Lakeland District Council had been responsible for the allocation of approximately £75,000,000 in business grants</p> | |

since March 2020. The council were working hard to roll-out a new range of grants to support businesses in the new lockdown period. These grants aim to include all of those who may have 'fallen between the cracks' in earlier grant schemes, but if there are still those whose need may not be catered for they are to be encourage to contact SLDC who may still be able to help using discretionary grants.

Cumbria Constabulary

PCSO D Ross reported that for the period 21st December 2020 and 16th January 2021 there had been 19 incidents of particular note in the Coniston area. These are as follows:

- 1 crime of burglary from an out building
- 1 crime of theft (low value)
- 1 suspicious incident: occupants of two vehicles spoken to, no offences
- 2 concern for welfare resulting in Mountain Rescue
- 14 possible breaches of covid regulations reported – 7 fixed penalty notices issued

Coniston Business Forum

Mr Rutland and Mr Kilgour were both able to attend.

Mr Rutland relayed concerns which had been expressed to him that:

- There was a perception that there was a lack of car parking in the village,
- That closing the road to the east of the Lake caused problems, that blocked car parks should be opened and that this should not be repeated in 2021,
- Updates regarding the return of Bluebird should be made more regularly,
- The Memorial Green was not looking as good as it should.

Mr Rutland has indicated that there will be a meeting of the Business Forum in late January.

Councillor Coward thanked Mr Rutland and Mr Kilgour for their attendance. It was hoped that the more proactive planning undertaken by key agencies would make for a better-managed summer season in 2021. The Memorial Green will look better by the spring when the wildflower area will come into bloom, this will also be aided by the erection of an information board to explain the purpose of the area.

National Trust

Mr Moffat asked for a number of issues to be raised prior to his attendance at a future meeting, including:

- Staffing reviews had been implemented; this has resulted in there being a restructured team of 14 rangers based at Boon Crag.
- The Gondola will operate on a low season basis from 27th March, but it is envisaged that it will operate until the end of October.
- The Gallery in Hawkshead and Hilltop in Sawrey will also be opening.
- Outdoor facilities such as Glen Mary and Tarn Hows will remain open.
- Last year there was a considerable change in the nature and behaviour of the visitors to the area. In 2020 agencies worked well together to respond to this challenge, however, in preparation for 2021 the National

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| | <p>Trust has been working closely with other key agencies to ensure that a robust plan is developed to enable them to manage problems more pro-actively.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Moffat had contracted Covid-19 and, although back at work, the impact of long-term covid symptoms was draining. The Parish Council instructed the clerk to express their best wishes for a speedy recovery. <p><u>Lake District National Park</u></p> <p>Mr Hill was not able to attend, however, he reported that the national park was quiet, and that 'Safer Lakes' patrols were checking that there were no overnight campers.</p> <p>Ms S Spicer indicated that work will commence to repair and improve the footpath between High Waterhead and the village will commence in January or February dependent upon progress completing work with a higher priority.</p> <p><u>Coniston and Torver Community Land Trust</u></p> <p>Mr Cameron submitted a report to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The housing development on Churchroom Field is progressing well. The LDNPA's Supplementary Planning Document was welcomed The Coniston Old Man Project was progressing well The CLT has made an application to Companies House to close and reform as a Housing Trust. <p><u>Councillors attending the Institute Committee meeting</u></p> <p>Councillor Hall indicated that she would report the Business Forum's concern regarding a lack of information regarding Bluebird and will share what information she can when it is available. A Bluebird working team will attend the next Business Forum meeting to do their best to answer any questions that they may have.</p> <p><u>Comments and representations from members of the public</u></p> <p><u>Mrs K Shepherd</u> addressed the Parish Council to express her concern that communication regarding the vaccine roll-out needed to be improved. Many elderly people might not be adept at using email and the Internet; however, these are the primary routes by which information is disseminated. This can lead to increased anxiety and isolation at an already stressful time.</p> <p>Councillors Coward, Hall and Sargent will work together with an aim to improve communication with isolated communities within the parish.</p> <p>There had been many positive stories of how well the vaccine roll-out had been managed. The clerk was asked to write to the practice to express how residents had reported a positive experience.</p> | <p>MD</p> <p>TC, AH, CS</p> <p>MD</p> |
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| | <p><u>Mr P Johnston</u> outlined the LDNPA plan to absorb the lessons learnt in 2020 and to manage 2021 more effectively. As a result of the pandemic last year, the Lake District saw an increase in day visits, and a reduced uses of buses. To meet the additional temporary need there were over 1,000 additional temporary car parking places added throughout the Lake District including the car parks on Walna Scar Road and at the Head of the Lake. Mr Johnston indicated that this was good, but that there needed to be additional car parking in the village centre.</p> <p>It is envisaged that there will be even greater numbers of people coming to the Lake District in 2021 to help cope with this there will be websites to direct visitors to where there are car parking spaces, and other initiatives to reduce fly parking and camping.</p> | |
| | <p>Planning Applications</p> <p><u>7/2020/5821</u> Park Coppice, Park Gate, Coniston, LA21 8LA. The installation of two motor van waste points and a dog/bike wash. RESOLVED: Councillors voted to support the application.</p> | MD |
| | <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"> • A number of councillors identified that the Highway gritting had proven inadequate to guarantee safe roads during cold weather. • The bridge on Lake Road had been damaged in a motor vehicle collision several weeks ago; however, the damage has begun to worsen, as it has not yet been repaired. To be reported to the Lake District National Park. • Pavements required more regular gritting and additional areas need to be included to safeguard pedestrians. Additional areas to be gritted include the top of Lake Road and the Bridge over Church Beck. • A wall running alongside the A593 at High Arnside had collapsed. • The clerk reported that the National Trust have no plans to repair their collapsed wall on the A593 at Park Coppice | MD MD |
| | <p>Bridge Toilets and Playground on Lake Road</p> <p><u>Bridge Toilets</u></p> <p>NOTED: Councillor Coward reported that Ms H Thomson, Castle Design Services, had submitted initial plans for the redesign of the toilet block. To facilitate feedback councillors were invited to a join Zoom meeting to discuss the plans with Ms Thompson.</p> <p><u>Lake Road Playground</u></p> <p>NOTED: Councillor Coward welcomed the fact that the playground has been allowed to remain open. She will contact Coniston Ground Care to have a diseased tree removed. The presence of moles was noted.</p> | ALL TC |

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| | <p>Climate Focus</p> <p>NOTED: Councillor Sargent had attended a virtual information session organised by South Lakeland District Council to raise awareness of carbon issues. Along with Councillor Coward and Mr Dearnley, he also attended an online session introducing a parish level carbon footprint tool. Councillor Sargent reported that Councillor Wharton is hoping for the Crake Valley parish councils to work together to identify and implement constructive initiatives that will have a positive impact on carbon emissions and related problems.</p> | |
| | <p>Consultations</p> <p>NOTED: Councillor Hall reported that she had shared the LDNPA's Housing Planning Document with Mr Cameron of the Coniston and Torver Community Land Trust. He had made some positive comments, which will be incorporated into the Parish Council's response to the consultation.</p> <p>NOTED: Councillor Coward will respond to the LDNPA's consultation on its Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document.</p> | <p>MD</p> <p>TC</p> |
| | <p>Events</p> <p>NOTED: There will be Comic Relief filming in and around the parish between the 9th and 11th March 2021.</p> <p>RESOLVED: to accept the schedule of parish council meeting dates previously circulated.</p> | |
| | <p>Councillor Matters</p> <p><u>Councillors Coward</u> Observed that the Coniston Christmas Lights were still being lit each evening. Councillor Troughton informed the meeting that this was a deliberate decision to lighten the dark days of January and to lift people's spirits during the Lockdown. This was welcomed, but it was identified that there needs to be a public statement to that let the parish know that this is a deliberate decision rather than an oversight.</p> | <p>HT</p> |
| | <p>Covid-19</p> <p>The village had entered a third national lockdown and much of what had been established in previous lockdowns was of use to support those in need in the parish and the wider community.</p> <p>The vaccine roll-out was progressing well and the local surgery had begun communicating via Facebook. At this time vaccines are only being offered at Grange and it had been feared that this would create transport difficulties, however, people have worked together to support each other and there are many volunteers who are prepared to help as required.</p> <p>It had been decided that the Sports and Social Club would not need to act in a co-ordinating role as it had in the Spring and early Summer.</p> <p>Food vouchers are still available to anyone in need from councillors, schools, or the sports and social club.</p> | |

Financial Matters

~~RESOLVED:~~

~~To note the first quarter accounts 2020/21 summary~~
~~To approve the financial accounts for 2019/20~~
~~To receive and note the report from the Internal Auditor~~
~~To approve and sign the Annual Governance Statements~~
~~To approve and sign the Accounting Statements~~
~~To confirmation of Asset register March 2020~~
To note the third quarter financial summary.

NOTED: The submission of the Parish Council precept for 2021/22

RESOLVED: To note the receipt the following receipts::

- None

RESOLVED: To authorise payment of the following accounts:

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| • Mr M Dearnley | £292.40 |
| • Mr M Dearnley (to replace chq 102445) | £284.60 |
| • Mr M Dearnley (Home Working Allowance) | £20.00 |
| • HMRC | £73.00 |
| • Optech | £648.00 |
| • Mr A Workman | £64.00 |
| • EON (Streetlights) | £56.67 |
| • EON (Toilets) | £20.09 |
| • CALC (Training) | £60.00 |
| • Lakesloos | £2,424.00 |
| • Ms J Johnston (Christmas Tree removal) | £25.00 |

Correspondence

RESOLVED: Councillors noted the following e-mails:

To note the following e-mails received since the last meeting:

- SLDC Press Release:
 - Kendal received £500,000 toward development projects
 - Reminder to adhere to the Tier 2 rules
 - Infections in South Lakeland rise, Cumbrians urged to be careful
 - Extra accommodation create for the Homeless in South Lakeland.
 - 500th affordable home built in Ulverston
 - New variant virus is in Cumbria
 - Levens community housing project receives £718,000 SLDC grant
 - Climate emergency training places available
 - Vaccine priority poster
 - Businesses urged to apply for grants
 - Newsletter January 2021
 - South Lakeland House reception closed
 - Cumbria Tier 4
 - Local Government Reorganisation
 - Bereavement support
- CC Press Release
- Cumbria Constabulary
 - PCSO Report
 - Coronavirus update 18.12.20, 23.12.20, 31.12.20, 8.1.21,
 - Yellow Warning - Snow & Ice 13th/14th January 2021

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumbria Voluntary Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AGM feedback • Lake District National Park Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coniston Water Byelaws amended ○ Letter to Parish Councils re: Covid management ○ Consultations: Housing Supplementary Planning Document and new Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document. • Rural Bulletin 5.1.21 • Rural Funding Digest January 2021 • Bay Health and Care Partners Press Release <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Looking after your health during lockdown ○ Coronavirus update ○ Waiting list patients offered support to get 'Set for Surgery' ○ Mental health during lockdown ○ Estates Team praised as first COVID-19 vaccinations are given out at Kendal hospital ○ Covid vaccine rollout ○ Coronavirus update 20 • Action for Health and Mental Health Provider • PSE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bulletin 18.12.20, 31.12.20, 7.1.21 ○ Survey of providers requiring vaccination ○ Bulletin, 16.12.20, 5.1.21, 11.1.21, ○ Cumbrians urged to act carefully ○ Covid numbers continue to climb ○ Volunteering during lockdown ○ Update 17.12.20 • Rusland Horizons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Christmas 2020 Newsletter ○ January newsletter • CALC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ North West Coastal Access December update ○ Letter from Robert Jenrick ○ Christmas changes to restrictions ○ Funeral arrangements in Tier 4 ○ Funeral guidance update ○ Community Leaders Pack January 2021 ○ Lesley Cooper appointed Parish Support Officer South Lakeland and Barrow • South Lakeland Area Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supporting South Lakeland over Christmas ○ Mental Health Family Hour • Torver Parish Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vacancy • Hawkshead Parish Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Draft minutes 15.12.20 ○ Agenda 19.1.21 • Information Commissioner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Letter • Alastair Cameron <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gauging station, centre of Coniston village • Coniston Business Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lockdown Business Grants • Threshold Sports | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Filming Project notification: Comic Relief challenge ● Centre for Sustainable Energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parish Council Carbon Footprint Online Session ● Neighbourhood Watch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vaccine scam ● Castle Design Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proposed layout of refurbished toilets ● Ambleside Parish Church <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coronavirus contacts ● Glynn Davies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planning issues 5.1.21, 5.1.21, 7.1.21, 11.1.21 | |
| | <p>Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday, 15th February 2021 7.00pm on Zoom.</p> | |

Meeting closed at 8:40pm

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Date

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Signed & Approved by (Chair)