

Coniston Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Coniston Parish Council Held on Zoom at 7.00pm on Monday, 20th July 2020

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

In attendance: One member of the public. Also in attendance were Mr Simon Hill (Lake District National Park), County Councillor Brereton and Councillor Wharton.

Minute Number		Action By
197/2020	<p>Apologies</p> <p>RESOLVED: Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Carrol Thompson, and Batty. No apology had been received from Councillor Airey.</p>	
198/2020	<p>Requests for Dispensations</p> <p>No requests received.</p>	
199/2020	<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>	
200/2020	<p>Minutes of Meetings held 22nd June 2020</p> <p>RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd June 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.</p>	
201/2020	<p>Public Participation</p> <p><u>County Councillor</u></p> <p>County Councillor Brereton attended this part of the meeting. His report included many issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross agency work continuing to clamp down on poor behaviours being exhibited around the lake, • Traffic enforcement is doing what it can to impact on antisocial and dangerous parking, • Mobile homes are increasingly using the side of roads to 'camp', however, unless they are committing an offence this is not unlawful. • The police and other agencies are working hard to clamp down on illegal activities such as raves, wild camping, drug use and use of off road vehicles. • The excessive inappropriate use of the east side of the lake by a number of people in recent weeks has been curtailed somewhat by the use of the road closure order. This has not ended all misbehaviour, but the area is now significantly calmer than previously. 	

- Local parking issues have been highlighted recently and it may be that a local resident parking scheme needs to be investigated. If the parish council would want to pursue this possibility, they should contact Councillor Brereton who will support the initiative.
- The idea of a Coniston to Broughton footpath and bridleway will be revisited.

District Councillors

Councillor Coward reported that South Lakeland District Council met on 30th June 2020. The Climate Change Community Fund for projects aiming to make the district more carbon neutral had been launched. Green bin collection for compostable material will continue on a four-week cycle for now, but this is being monitored.

No report from Councillors Hall, or Wharton.

PCSO D Ross

Cumbria Constabulary will begin to report local activity with effect from the August meeting.

Lake District National Park Authority

Mr Hill reported that on behalf of the Authority.

- The Boating Centre was open, albeit in a form that allows reasonable measures to be put in place e.g. only half the fleet in operation, boat hire management altered to facilitate enhanced disinfectant regime.
- Bluebird Café was open.
- Coniston Launch was operating
- The Gondola will not operate this year
- The Authority is struggling with the 'new audience' of visitors attracted to the lake both in terms of their volume and in terms of character.
- The car parks have been full everyday since schools had broken up; the overflow field at the Boating Centre is being employed to accommodate the additional vehicles.
- Ruskin Avenue car park has experienced a significant increase in usage. This has been accompanied by poor behaviour on the part of some drivers during the day. At night, it has acted as a magnet to a small group of younger drivers from outside the area. Mr Hill itemised ways in which the Authority were actively considering managing this problem, including closing the car park toilets and using barriers to block access to the car park overnight.
- The Old Station, Monk Coniston and Brown How car parks are all very busy.
- It has been noted that there had been a marked increase in the number of motorhome campers, however, it was noted that these cannot be moved on unless the owners have engaged in criminal damage. There is a longer-term aim to establish a new motorhome campsite.

East Side of the Lake

- Although not involved in enforcement, Mr Hill was under the impression that the road closure is still in place and is effective. Councillor Hall noted that in her opinion the road closure was locally popular and effective.

	<p>Monk Coniston</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the lockdown eased the low water level was a perfect holidaying ground for the large numbers of day trippers which led to a number of problems from dangerous and inconsiderate parking from Monk Coniston as far as Kirkby Quay and beyond to litter and antisocial behaviour. After the rain in recent weeks, the water level has risen and the capacity to accommodate day-trippers has reduced. As an eventuality for future large numbers of visitors, Fiona Ebbs has opened her field as an overspill car park to cope with additional need. <p>Walna Scar Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Hill assured the parish council that Councillor Carroll's email raising the issues at Walna Scar Road were being taken seriously. Councillor Hall raised the issue of parking in passing places as an issue of particular concern. Rydal Estates are not fulfilling planning requirements and the Authority were working to ensure that they complete the work they have started. Mr Hill will also raise with them the need for far better road signage than exists at present. It was hoped that the temporary car park being opened part way up Walna Scar Road would alleviate some of these difficulties. <p>Mr Hill asked what the parish council was able to undertake to make the village more capable of social distancing. Councillor Coward confirmed that South Lakeland District Council's focus had been on the safe opening of larger towns such as Kendal and Ulverston. The parish council has focussed on those matters it controls but does not have the authority to have a significant impact on the high street.</p> <p>Mr Hill thanked the people of Coniston for their held during the previous three months, especially in relation to litter picking and reporting issues as they identify them.</p> <p>Councillor Coward Councillor Coward praised the practical approach taken by all the main agencies in the Lake District to make operational decisions to address urgent issues. She extended thanks to Mr Hill and his team.</p> <p><u>Coniston & Torver Community Land Trust</u></p> <p>Mr Cameron reported that Castle and Coast Housing Association will continue to be pressed to develop their site at Church Room Field.</p> <p><u>Councillors attending the Institute Committee meeting</u></p> <p>Interviews will be held for the position of Museum Curator. Work on the newly refurbished toilets has been completed. The Institute will consider whether its meeting facilities will be available to groups. The Parish Council will not be meeting in public until such time that government advice informs it that such meetings will be safe and necessary for both councillors and members of the public.</p>	IV
202/2020	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>It was noted that there were no outstanding planning applications.</p>	
203/2020	<p>Coniston Maintenance and Highways Issues</p> <p>The completion of repairs to Yewdale Bridge and the removal of the temporary</p>	

	<p>traffic lights after eight months was warmly welcomed.</p> <p>The hedge running alongside the B5285 has grown uncontrolled and is now a danger to both pedestrians and drivers alike at the Pier Cottage corner and Head of the Lake. The National Trust are to be contacted to ask that they cut these back as a matter of some urgency.</p> <p>The National Trust path at Little Arrow had been brought to the attention of the parish council, rather than relying on the National Trust that has significantly depleted resources to cut this path the parish council will undertake this task on this one occasion.</p> <p><u>Lengthsman</u></p> <p>Mr Workman stumped two paths, which had been identified as being overgrown and proving a nuisance to pedestrians, forcing them to pass each other in a way that does not enable social distancing. He has also renovated the Usher bench at the Head of the Lake.</p> <p><u>Other Highways issues in the Parish</u></p> <p>It was noted that the gates on the railway track by the bridge were broken. This is to be reported to the Rawdon Smith Trust.</p>	MD
204/2020	<p>Bridge Toilets and Playground on Lake Road</p> <p>Since the last meeting the playground had been fully risk assessed based on government guidance, adaptations made and opened to the public. This has been successful and most welcome.</p> <p>The toilets remain open and popular, however, it was noted that the collection boxes was significantly lower than in previous years. A total of £174.68 had been collected to date whereas at this point last year £1,425.84 had been collected.</p>	
205/2020	<p>Streetlighting</p> <p>The clerk updated the meeting on progress made to identify potential future street lighting contractors. Two organisations have expressed an interest to date; they are to be encouraged to make a site visit and to quote for the conversion of remaining lights from sodium to LED.</p>	
206/2020	<p>Climate Focus</p> <p>The meeting noted that the South Lakeland District Council had made provision for grants that may be useful to the parish council in reducing its carbon footprint.</p> <p>The floral turf for the Campbell Memorial Green will be ordered for a September delivery.</p>	
207/2020	<p>Coniston Institute facilities</p> <p>RESOLVED: To make a donation of £2,000 to the development of toilet facilities at Coniston Institute.</p>	

208/2020	<p>Coniston Water Byelaw</p> <p>NOTED: The response made to the government during its consideration of the byelaw.</p>	
209/2020	<p>Parking Issues</p> <p>This matter had been discussed at an earlier point in the meeting. However, Councillor Coward added an observation made by a resident that parking on Coppermines Lane could be reserved for residents' only parking under a scheme operated by the parish council.</p>	
210/2020	<p>Councillor Matters</p> <p><u>Councillor Troughton</u> Observed a general lack of social distancing in the village. This is an issue that needs to be addressed. Councillor Coward will obtain some covid-19 signage from South Lakeland District Council. Benches at Kirkby Quay, Little Moss Close and by the Lake Road Retail Park are in poor repair. It was noted that the bench at Little Moss Close is in such poor repair that it needs removing.</p> <p><u>Councillor Hall</u> Observed that Higgleddy Piggledy was a welcome addition to the high street.</p> <p><u>Councillor Coward</u> Noted that the Gondola did not appear to be a priority for the National Trust, however, it is an important feature to the life of the lake and the clerk was instructed to write to the National Trust to ask that they work toward sailing it this year. Councillor Brereton offered to lend his voice to this call.</p> <p><u>Councillor Carroll</u> Had previously submitted his concerns regarding parking, his views were included in the discussion held earlier in the meeting.</p>	
211/2020	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>RESOLVED: Councillors approved the financial accounts for 2019/20</p> <p>212/2020 NOTED: Councillors noted the first quarter accounts 2020/21</p> <p>213/2020 RESOLVED: Councillors received the report from the Internal Auditor</p> <p>214/2020 RESOLVED: Councillors approved the Governance Statements and the Chair arranged to sign them.</p> <p>215/2020 RESOLVED: Councillors approved the Accounting Statements and the Chair arranged to sign them</p> <p>216/2020 RESOLVED: Councillors confirmed the Asset register March 2020</p>	

217/2020	RESOLVED: To note receipt of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
218/2020	RESOLVED: To authorise payment of the following accounts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T Coward – signage £77.37 • A Workman TBC • M Dearnley £284.60 • HMRC £71.00 • CALC: Annual Subscription £205.63 • CALC: Zoom Subscription £94.08 • Thomas Graham £147.36 • Coniston Institute & Ruskin Museum £2,000.00 	
219/2020	Correspondence RESOLVED: Cllrs noted the following e-mails: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action for Health and Mental Health Provider Forum Bulletin, 18.6.20, 24.6.20, 9.7.20, 10.7.20 • Action for Health and Mental Health Provider Forum Extra 18.6.20 • Cumbria Arts and Culture Network: Covid-19 Newsletter 19.6.20, 25.6.20, • PSE Newsletter 18.6.20, 19.6.20, 24.6.20, 1.7.20, 7.7.20 • Ambleside Action for a Future 18.6.20 • CALC: Electric vehicle charge-point webinar 18.6.20 • Cumbria County Council Archive Service: Covid-19 archive 18.6.20 • CALC: Lake District National Park Authority Covid-19 Management update 19.6.20 • NHS: Restoration of services 19.6.20 • Cumbria Constabulary update: 19.6.20, 27.6.20, 3.7.20, 10.7.20 • Cumbria County Council Traffic Management: C5018 Road Closure 19.6.20 • South Lakeland District Council: Coronavirus briefing update 19.6.20 • Cllr Ian Wharton: Road Closure C5018 19.6.20 • Cumbria CC Highways: Relining existing road markings 19.6.20 • Highways and Transport: Yewdale Bridge Road Closure 21.6.20 • Satterthwaite Parish Council: open letter regarding closure of C5018 21.6.20 • University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay: Coronavirus update 22.6.20 • Alastair Campbell: Coniston and Torver Housing Trust 22.6.20 • South Lakeland District Council: Local Plan Review 22.6.20 • Rural Bulletin 23.6.20, 30.6.20, 7.7.20, 14.7.20 • Planning: The Wyn – Decision notice 23.6.20 • Public Service Network: Newsletter June 2020 • Ambleside Parish Covid-19 Support update 24.6.20 • South Lakeland District Council: Press Release Countryside Climate Network 24.6.20 • Rusland Horizons: June newsletter 24.6.20, 10.7.20 • CALC: Digital Borderlands voucher scheme 25.6.20 • Cumbria CC – Victoria Upton: Addressing C5018 Road Closure 26.6.20 • Highways: Temporary 30mph speed limit on A5084 26.6.20 • Records Week/Byelaw consultation 28.6.20 • South Lakeland District Council: Standards Committee Agenda 29.6.20 	

<p>220/2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Lakeland District Council: Reopening High Streets Safely 29.6.20 • Cumbria CVS: Volunteering update 1.7.20 • South Lakeland District Council: Press Release ‘Successful discretionary grant fund applicants to be notified this week’ 1.7.20 • South Lakeland Area Support: Summer Reading Challenge 2.7.20 • South Lakeland District Council – Press Release ‘Bay Partnership Agreement’ 2.7.20 • Highways: Reactivation of road closure U5523 Chapel Stile • Lake District National Park Authority: Letter to Parish Councils 3.7.20 • South Lakeland District Council: Coronavirus Briefing Update 3.7.20 • National Trust: Welcome back to the Lake District 3.7.20 • Torver Parish Council: July Agenda 3.7.20 • South Lakeland District Council: Review of Local Plan (excluding National Park) 6.7.20 • South Lakeland District Council: Press Release ‘Council Play Areas Reopened’ 6.7.20 • South Lakeland District Council: Press Release ‘Ambitious actions to combat climate change’ 7.7.20 • Rural Funding Digest 8.7.20 • Cllr Wharton: Rural Funding Digest 8.7.20 • South Lakeland Area Support: Community update on coronavirus with Colin Cox. 9.7.20 • South Lakeland District Council: Press Release ‘Discretionary Business Grants’ 9.7.20 • CALC: South Lakeland District Association meeting 10.7.20 • South Lakeland District Council: Press Release ‘Climate Change’ 10.7.20 • Action with Communities in Cumbria Newsletter 10.7.20 • Cumbria County Council Press Release 10.7.20 • NALC: Chief Executive’s Bulletin 14.7.20 • Torver Parish Council: Minutes 15.7.20 • Hawkshead Parish Council: Agenda 15.7.20 <p>RESOLVED: Cllrs noted the following correspondence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim Farron, MP. Summer surgery. 	
<p>221/2020</p>	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday, 17th August 2020 at 7.00pm on Zoom.</p>	

Meeting closed at 8:35pm

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Date

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Signed & Approved by (Chair)

..... Date Chair Initials