

Coniston Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Coniston Parish Council held in the Reading Room, Coniston Institute, Coniston at 7pm on Monday, 21st October 2019

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

In attendance: Four members of the public

Minute Number		Action By
293/2019	Apologies Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Carroll.	
294/2049	RESOLVED: Mr J Airey was welcomed as a co-opted Councillor and signed the Declarations of Acceptance of Office. The Registration of Financial and other Interests forms were completed. Councillor Airey was provided with a copy of the Code of Conduct, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.	
295/2019	Requests for Dispensations No requests received.	
296/2019	Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of Agenda items All Councillors as Custodian Trustees of the Coniston Institute and Ruskin Museum.	
297/2019	Minutes of Meeting 16th September 2019 RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 th September 2019 were amended to reflect the spelling of names and then approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.	
298/2019	Public Participation <u>Barrow Foodbank</u> Jim Webster from Barrow Foodbank addressed the Council. He recognised that there were applications for assistance from Coniston and Broughton Ward, but that the level of need was significantly greater in the inner wards of Barrow in Furness. It was noted that many of those requesting help accessed support from the Foodbank's outlet at Millom either because it was more accessible, or because it allowed for greater anonymity. Mr Webster noted that the Foodbank receives referrals from a number of organisations including MIND, the Probation Service, CAB, and Age Concern. However, he recognised that the provision of emergency support is not the resolution to the problems which many of those referred to them are struggling to deal with.	

The Foodbank has a well-established system of voucher holders who are able to provide those who are recognised as being in need with immediate support, it was suggested that by working through the church or schools this might be replicated in Coniston.

Cllr Coward will approach Mr Blackburn, Headteacher of John Ruskin High School, Coniston to explore what role the village schools might play as voucher holders.

The presentation ended with an invitation for all Councillors to visit the Foodbank in Barrow and to meet the paid staff and volunteers who make it work.

National Trust

John Moffatt, submitted a written report in which he indicated the scale of the tree felling and extraction operation which will take place throughout the winter in order to address the previously reported tree disease in the area. He noted that there were no empty houses in the parish and that the Steam Yacht Gondola, and other National Trust attractions will close at the end of the season on Monday, 3rd November.

Lake District National Parks

Simon Hill reported on a range of developments and issues impacting on the Boating Centre and the villages' car parks.

- The building work at the Lake has been completed, future schemes include the development of the ticket office, redesigning it to fit in better with the lakeside buildings and to include a retail outlet.
- Car park revenue was slightly lower than last year, but this might reflect the generally poorer weather.
- The overspill car park was used 28 days during the season, this could have been used more often as the lake has been very busy but it is unlikely that this will be converted into a permanent car park as this would require a major capital investment.
- Electric bikes have been successfully introduced and will be expanded next year.
- Electric charging points were introduced at the boating centre and in Ruskin Avenue car park. The points at the boating centre work well within the existing electrical infrastructure, any major expansion would require a major investment. The sites at Ruskin Avenue were very busy.
- In response to observations made in previous years the management of assets such as canoes and trailers were kept higher up the beach.
- In response to observations made by several councillors, Mr Hill will look at the signage to Ruskin Avenue Car Park, the replacement of a fence on Old Furness Road, and the repair of a nearby wall hit by a vehicle. Cllr Coward will send Mr Hill an email to confirm these issues.

Police

There was no report from the police.

Coniston and Torver Community Land Trust

Alastair Cameron provided a written report outlining the transition of the Community Land Trust into a Housing Trust. The process for this, including notification to Companies House, and addressing the final destination of surplus funds will be addressed in the near future.

He noted that there is a steadily increasing housing need which necessitates a challenge to the planning authority to be more proactive in active when supporting the establishment of new homes.

County Councillor

County Councillor Brereton submitted a written report: advising that issues relating to line marking and signage on highways, as well as pedestrian safety issues at Bomanstead by the Ship Inn have been raised and are being actively pursued. Any issues which require a Traffic Regulation Order will be packaged with that being introduced in Broughton in an attempt to reduce costs.

Parking at school crossing places and the creation of traffic calming schemes around schools at peak drop off and pick up times is being examined.

The Working Together pilot is being progressed. It was noted that improved reporting and tracking systems are required to ensure more effective co-ordination between partner authorities, to better identify cost savings, and to provide a data driven platform from which reallocation of funding could be negotiated.

District Councillors

Councillors Hall and Coward reported that the town hall in Kendal was being developed, but that there was also significant capital investment at other locations in South Lakeland. There were also developments in policy and procedures which give a new prominence to the importance of biodiversity and climate change.

Cllrs attending Coniston Institute Committee Meeting

Issues included:

- Discussions regarding Bluebird are continuing.
- A new protocol is being explored which intends to clarify the how the Institute and Grizedale Arts work together.
- The post of curators has not been filled, it was recognised that staff were working well and the most recent exhibition was very successful.

Public Participation

None.

<p>299/2019</p>	<p>Update on Ongoing Issues and Actions from Last Meeting</p> <p><u>To update on housing developments in Coniston</u> Cllr Hall and the clerk updated the council on the development of Holly Howe Close and Church Room Field.</p> <p><u>To update on Lake Road Playground.</u> Essential work on the swing, as detailed in the ROSPA report, has been completed.</p> <p><u>Vicky Slowe</u> It was noted that a card and letter of appreciation had been sent to Miss Slowe.</p>	
<p>300/2019</p> <p>301/2019</p> <p>302/2019</p> <p>303/2019</p> <p>304/2019</p>	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>7/2019/5448 – Black Bull Hotel, 1 Yewdale Road, Coniston, LA21 8DU</p> <p>Conversion of four letting bedrooms comprising a separate accommodation block into one self-catering cottage with alteration to roof of hotel extension.</p> <p>RESOLVED: No objections</p> <p>7/2019/5531 – Waterhead Hotel, Coniston, LA21 8AJ</p> <p>Replacement of hotel signage.</p> <p>RESOLVED: No objections</p> <p>7/2019/5611 – Coniston Park Coppice Caravan and Motorhome Club Site, Park Gate, Coniston, LA21 8LA</p> <p>Installation of two camping pods as temporary structures.</p> <p>RESOLVED: The council was unable to comment as the application was unclear as to what was intended by the term ‘temporary’.</p> <p>7/2019/5621 – Bonsor Upper Mill, Coniston Coppermines Valley, Coniston, LA21 8HX</p> <p>Improvement works to the surface water drainage system and the foul drainage at the Bonsor Upper Mill site.</p> <p>RESOLVED: No objections</p> <p>7/2019/5643 – Coniston Old Hall Farm, Coniston Hall Camp Site, Haws Bank, Coniston, LA21 8AS</p> <p>Installation of secondary glazing and stove flues, chimney and roof timber repairs, sundry works to improve fire precautions</p> <p>RESOLVED: No objections</p>	

305/2019	<p>Councillors noted the following Notice of Grant of Planning Permission</p> <p>7/2019/5504 – Waterhead Hotel, Coniston, LA21 8AJ</p> <p>Approval of details reserved by conditions on planning application</p>	
306/2019	<p>Coniston Tidy-up and Highways</p> <p><u>To update on the work carried out by the Coniston Lengthsman.</u></p> <p>Mr Workman had not been able to complete the work outside the Institute due to poor weather. It was agreed that a file of work will be drawn up with as many ‘before and after’ photographs in it as possible to illustrate the positive impact that Mr Workman has had in Coniston.</p>	
307/2019	<p><u>To update on other Highways issues in the Parish</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor drainage has resulted in pot holes appearing on some roads near the Youth Hostel. Pictures of the issue are to be taken and forwarded to Mr Workman to enable him to identify the exact location. • There are blocked drains on Tilberthwaite Avenue, this is to be reported to Cumbria County Council by Councillor Thompson. • No immediate issues were brought forward, however, it was noted that Mr Workman may be asked to provide some additional support during the winter months in the event of unforeseen circumstances arising. 	
308/2019	<p>Bridge Toilets</p> <p>Councillor Coward reported that she had secured a grant of £15,000 from the Rawdon Smith Trust toward the anticipated £25,000 required to refurbish the Bridge toilets. South Lakeland District Council and other organisations will be approached in order to secure the balance of funding.</p>	
309/2019	<p>An architect is being sought to lead the design stage of the project. One quote has been received, however, more quotes are being sought.</p>	
310/2019	<p>Council Banking Services</p> <p>The Council instructed the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) to review existing banking arrangements and to specifically compare the services provided by Barclays Bank, the Cumberland Building Society and the Co-operative Bank. The RFO will bring back a summary report outlining the banking services offered by these three banks to the next meeting.</p>	
311/2019	<p>Payroll</p> <p>The Council agreed to appoint a payroll company to manage all aspects of payroll processing and submissions to HMRC. The RFO is to make all necessary arrangements to transfer responsibility.</p>	

<p>312/2019</p>	<p>Councillor Matters</p> <p>Councillor Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many properties are changing their names with a result that it may prove difficult for First Responders and other emergency services to locate them • There is a broken wall which South Lakes Housing are responsible for maintaining, to be followed up. • The problem of leylandii blocking light and impacting on the grass tennis courts was highlighted. The clerk will research the rights that landowners have in relation to leylandii in neighbouring properties and report back. <p>Councillor Troughton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that all organisations have the opportunity to apply for the Council's precept grants a summary of the grant awarding policy will be posted on social media. <p>Councillor Airey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported the project to establish a wildflower area on the green. <p>Councillor Thompson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observed that the village map in Hawkshead by the car park was useful to help visitors get their bearings and find their way around the village, he will investigate the feasibility of creating a Coniston Village map in a similar style. • There had been a successful Amenities Fund Quiz which raised £91.51. <p>Councillor Coward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees will be planted in Lake Road Park by South Lakeland District Council soon. • There are trees by the Sun Inn which are obscuring a road sign. Councillor Coward will follow this up. • Councillor Coward will confirm that the road closure at Park Gate will not impact on the village's Bonfire Night celebrations. 	
<p>313/2019</p> <p>314/2019</p> <p>315/2019</p> <p>316/2019</p>	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>RESOLVED: to note the financial summary from July to September 2019.</p> <p><u>To consider the budget for 2020/2021</u> Consideration of the draft budget was deferred until the next meeting.</p> <p>The letter received from the Great North Air Ambulance Service requesting a donation to enable them to continue providing their lifesaving service was referred to November meeting where precept grant applications will be considered.</p> <p><u>Receipts</u> RESOLVED: Cllrs noted the following receipts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge Toilets £288.66 • Playground Collection Box £100.81 	

317/2019	<p><u>Payments</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: Cllrs authorised payment of the following:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Clerk's Salary</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£320.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerk's Expenses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£144.45</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor Carroll's Expenses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£203.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£80.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EON – street lighting</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£187.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EON – Bridge Toilets</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£13.92</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Playdale Playgrounds</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£621.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thomas Graham</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£73.92</td> </tr> </table>	Clerk's Salary	£320.75	Clerk's Expenses	£144.45	Councillor Carroll's Expenses	£203.40	HMRC	£80.00	EON – street lighting	£187.80	EON – Bridge Toilets	£13.92	Playdale Playgrounds	£621.90	Thomas Graham	£73.92	
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318/2019	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>RESOLVED: Councillors noted the following e-mails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Bulletin 10.9.19, 17.9.19, 24.9.19, 1.10.19, 15.10.19 • Torver Parish Council: minutes for September • Lakes Council: A591 Roadworks 12.9.19 • Grizedale Arts: Coniston and Crake Valley Apple Day notification • Brecca Swimrun: notification • CALC: Burnetts Employment Law and Human Resources newsletter • DEFRA: Publication of Landscapes Review • Cumbria County Council Highways: notice of temporary speed restriction A593 near Tilberthwaite Road • Grizedale Arts: Ruskin's Road and Rudy's Café notification • CALC: AGM notification and invitation • CALC: Climate Change event notification • CALC: Management of Waste Seminar • Helen Glaister: Copper in our Veins Celebration notification and invitation • CALC: Invasive species alert (Water Primrose) • Public Sector Network: newsletter • Grizedale Stages Rally: notification • Coniston Water Association Meeting: notification and agenda • SLDC: Agenda for Council meeting • Rural Funding Digest: October 2019 edition • Selafield Ltd Radioactive substance activities permit review • Coniston Twinning Quiz: notification • Cumbria County Council Highways: Temporary Road Closure A593 at Coniston (30th October – November) • CALC: Lake District Transport Conference • Lakeland Trails: email of thanks to the village of Coniston • Helen Glaister: Forces of Nature exhibition • Cumbria County Council: Press Release re: A591 Roadworks (Road closed between Waterhead and Stagshaw 6:30pm and 1am, each evening Monday to Friday over two weeks, 4th November to 15th November) • Rampside WI lunch to support the X112 bus • Cumbria Action for health and mental health: bulletin • Neighbourhood Watch in Cumbria: Survey of policing, in Cumbria 																	

<p>319/2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CALC: Neighbourhood planning and health and wellbeing article, a legal update. • Coniston 14 Road Race: notification • Hawkshead Parish Council: October agenda • CALC: South Lakes District Association Meeting notification <p>RESOLVED: Councillors noted the following correspondence received by post:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter of thanks from the Friends of the X112 • Request for funding from the Great North Air Ambulance Service. • ACT (Action with communities in Cumbria) letter explaining that its role in responding to the need for emergency planning and the development of community resilience following Storm Desmond is coming to an end; and introducing a new programme Neighbourliness Works 	
<p>320/2019</p>	<p>Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 18th November at 7pm at the Reading Room, Coniston Institute 	

Meeting closed at 9:09pm

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Date

Signed & Approved by (Chair)