

Coniston Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Coniston Parish Council Held at St Andrew's Church, Coniston at 7pm on Monday, 19th July 2021

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

In attendance: Mr Glyn Davies, Mr David Johnson, Mr Phil Johnston, Mrs Anne Stoddart

Minute Number	PART ONE	Action By
255/2021	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Thompson and Airey.</p>	
256/2021	<p>Requests for Dispensations</p> <p>None.</p>	
257/2021	<p>Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of Agenda items</p> <p>The Parish Council is Custodian Trustee of the Coniston Institute and Ruskin Museum.</p>	
258/2021	<p>Minutes</p> <p>RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st June 2021 were approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.</p>	
259/2021	<p>Co-option of Parish Councillor</p> <p>RESOLVED: Mr Shaun Atkinson was unanimously co-opted as a parish councillor. Declaration of office and Register of Interests are to be completed, witnessed and submitted to South Lakeland District Council after the August Parish Council meeting.</p>	
260/2021	<p>Public Participation</p> <p><u>District Councillors</u></p> <p>Councillor Coward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraged all residents to participate in the Boundary Commission review of Parliamentary Constituencies. • The decision regarding Local Government Reorganisation is expected soon. 	

County Councillor

Councillor Brereton submitted a report; unfortunately this was not available at by the beginning of the meeting.

Lake District National Park

It was reported that remedial work to address the ongoing flooding issue along the path between High Waterhead and the village has been postponed, as there were a number of people using the path who would have been diverted onto the road. The work was originally planned to be completed in February 2019 and due to the Covid-19 pandemic, staff shortages, higher priority tasks and now the presence of pedestrians the work has been postponed until at least September 2021. This may not happen until Spring 2022 as the weather may play a part in preventing the repair work to be undertaken.

The Parish Council believes it has been more than patient and understanding, however, this path is a major artery for pedestrians who desire to walk on a level gradient between the village and outlying areas of the parish as well as to the Head of the Lake, Monk Coniston and beyond. This is not something which would be tolerated in an urban area and yet residents in Coniston are asked to wait for up to three years to make the path passable in winter weather. The clerk was asked to write to Steve Tatlock and Sara Spicer to complain about this situation.

National Trust

Mr Moffat submitted a report that:

- There is some cause for concern in relation to the short to the East of the Lake, otherwise visitor numbers and activities have been manageable.
- The National Trust is focussing on preparing for the easing of restrictions and is anticipating a busy summer season, extending into the autumn.
- There are no empty properties in the Parish. A new tenant for Boon Crag has been chosen to take over the farm in the autumn.

Coniston Business Forum

Mr Rutland indicated that the business community is very busy; as a result, there had not been a Forum meeting for a while. He did indicate that the Parish Council would be well placed to undertake a review of parking within the village and surrounding area. The Forum had donated £200 to Coniston Institute to support the running of the Model Boat Bluebird Regatta.

Coniston and Torver Community Land Trust

Mr Cameron submitted a report.

- There was concern raised that Coniston residents might miss the opportunity to bid for the new houses on Yewdale Road, this is something which Mr Cameron is working to ensure is not the case.

<p>261/2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of a safer route to school from the development remains an ongoing issue. • It is hoped that Cumbria Choice could provide a breakdown of applications before conducting another housing need survey. <p><u>Councillors attending the Institute Committee meeting</u></p> <p>Councillor Sargeant reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A model boat regatta had been organised, businesses had been very generous in their support and a great number of participants and spectators were expected. • The withdrawal of Grizedale Arts from the Institute’s affairs was drawing to a close. • The Reading Room was to be used for business purposes. • David Johnson had undertaken a great deal of work to refit the Museum and Institute. • A building survey had been undertaken. <p><u>Public Participation</u></p> <p><u>Mrs Anne Stoddart</u> Complained on behalf of Coniston Co-op and its shareholders the impact that Mr Johnston’s car park has had on their business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Johnston’s staff had erected signs on scaffolding belonging to the Co-op without asking permission, when asked to remove it Mr Johnston engaged in an unsatisfactory conversation with Mr Ennion. • The car park has created a blockage in the village when access to the car park was disrupted by vehicles unloading at the Co-op. <p>Mrs Stoddard wanted to bring this matter to the attention of the Parish Council and to have the sign removed.</p> <p><u>Mr Phil Johnston</u> Apologised to Mrs Stoddart and confirmed that the sign had been removed. He commented that his preferred access to the car park would have been from Yewdale Road which would have addressed the issue raised by Mrs Stoddart.</p> <p>Mr Johnston believes that the car park has been a boon to local business, and it has been averaging 100 cars per day. He will be erecting netting to prevent damage and injury during cricket matches. Mr Johnston offered free car parking to visiting cricket teams, as well as employees in local pubs, shops and other businesses. He stated that the Lake District National Park had encouraged him to apply for permission to open beyond the 56 days permitted under national rules.</p> <p><u>Mr Glyn Davies</u> Queried whether the Parish Council would attend, or send written representation, to any appeal made by Mr Johnston against the planning enforcement issued by the National Park in relation to the Lands Field development.</p> <p>He Informed the meeting that an interim report analysing present and future</p>	
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	<p>car parking requirements would be ready for discussion by the August meeting of the Parish Council.</p> <p>Following on from the National Park Authority's decision to grant permission to develop shepherd's huts as part of a farm diversification initiative at Dixon Ground Farm, Mr Davies queried whether the definition of what constituted a farm was as clearly defined, as it needed to be. Mr Davies will be writing to Tim Farron, MP to raise this matter with him.</p>	
<p>262/2021</p> <p>263/2021</p> <p>264/2021</p> <p>265/2021</p>	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p><u>Reference: 7/2021/5515</u> Location: Brackendene, Lake Road, Coniston, LA21 8EW Proposal: Demolish single storey rear conservatory, garage and stores and build single storey rear lounge, garage, utility and stores - revised scheme to include installation of sewage treatment plant (previous permission 7/2020/5114) RESOLVED: No objection</p> <p><u>Reference: 7/2021/5515</u> Location: Hollin Bank Farm, Coniston, LA21 8AG Proposal: Retention of 12 boreholes and associated works RESOLVED: No objection</p> <p><u>Reference: 7/2021/5480</u> Location: Heathwaite, Land to the South West of the reservoir, Coniston, LA21 8HD Proposal: Proposed permanent modular 48V DC Generator on new 1.5m x 3.1 Concrete Base with Clearance of 2.694m x 4.404m RESOLVED: To defer a decision until a site visit could be arranged.</p> <p>NOTED: Councillors noted the following grants of Planning Permission:</p> <p><u>Reference: 7/2021/5271</u> Location: Wetherlam, Haws Bank, Bowmenstead, Coniston, LA21 8AP Proposal: Renovation, alteration and extension of existing cottage</p> <p><u>Reference: 7/2021/5151</u> Location: Land adjacent to Dixon Ground Farm, Coniston Proposal: Farm diversification scheme including the siting of shepherd's huts for use as holiday letting accommodation</p> <p><u>Reference: 7/2021/5410</u> Location: Low Brandy Crag Quarry, Copper Mines, Coniston Proposal: Approval of details reserved by condition 16 of planning approval reference 7/2011/5485 – extension to slate quarry</p>	

	<p>Coniston Maintenance and Highways</p> <p><u>Lengthsman Funding</u></p> <p>The Parish Council engages to services of Mr A Workman, Lengthsman. Mr Workman is a great asset to the parish and enables smaller scale highways work to be undertaken quickly and efficiently by the community most closely effected. He also provides great service undertaking village maintenance projects.</p> <p>It was the original intention of both the County and Parish Council to establish a formal agreement for the County to fund that work which is their statutory responsibility. The clerk has been attempting to engage Cumbria County Council in a meaningful discussion; however, they have been unresponsive.</p> <p>266/2021 RESOLVED: For the clerk to write via email to Cumbria County Council and to copy County Councillor Matt Brereton in to enable him to engage on behalf of Coniston Parish.</p> <p><u>Gardens and overgrown common areas</u></p> <p>The Parish Council had been requested to use its powers to encourage and smarten up gardens and public/shared spaces in the village. It was agreed that certain areas that might otherwise look uncared for could be addressed using the Lengthsman budget. The Parish Council has no authority, or available funding to intervene where a private garden is neglected.</p> <p>The Highways Authority have the power to take action when hedges impede use of footpaths. If the hedges at some properties on Tilberthwaite Avenue are not cut back voluntarily, they will be reported to the Highways Authority.</p> <p>267/2021 RESOLVED: To use the Lengthsman budget to address key issues to improve the appearance of common areas in the village.</p> <p>Other Highways issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Sargeant has reported pot holes in Hawes Bank. • Old Hawkshead Road and Collingwood Avenue are being blocked by traffic, there is a need for lines to be repainted, and a residents only scheme to be discussed. • Lake Road footpath access is being blocked by inconsiderate parking. • The Welcome to Coniston banner on the north side of Church Beck Bridge needs to be removed or moved to the south side where it will have less impact on road safety. 	
<p>268/2021</p>	<p>Public Toilet Renovations</p> <p>Two bids had been received; both were significantly higher than anticipated. The designer has been involved in redrawing the specification to enable the contractor more flexibility in materials to be used.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To prepare for retendering later in the summer, and to discuss the</p>	

	possibility of arranging an asset transfer from South Lakeland District Council to the Parish Council to justify expenditure on refurbishment.	
269/2021	Coniston Parish Council Website The meeting heard an update including the desirability of creating a PayPal link on the site.	
270/2021	Car Park Working Group Since the idea of creating a car park working group was first raised the situation in the parish has changed markedly with Lands Field being converted, albeit temporarily, into a large car park. This will generate a wealth of data that Mr Johnston has offered to share with the Parish Council, along with other information gathered in recent years. The establishment of a working group will be reviewed later in the year.	
271/2021	Climate Focus There had been damage done to the Wildflower Area signage. This was unfortunately; however, Mr S Clarke will be approached to effect a repair.	
272/2021	Consultations/Community Engagement RESOLVED: To adopt the draft response to the Westminster constituency boundary changes consultation.	
273/2021	Safer Lakes The preferred route for reporting incidents is through CVAlerts, this has proven popular and successful. Overall, high visitor numbers are being managed despite and low-level issues are being reported and addressed.	
274/2021	Councillor Matters <u>Councillor Coward</u> Noted that Japanese knotweed had been spotted around Coniston Water. Music was being played on speakers outside the Yewdale Hotel making the streetscape a noisier environment than is desirable. Councillor Troughton offered to enquire as to whether this is a licencing infringement.	
275/2021	Financial Matters RESOLVED: To note the following receipts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilet collection £190.00 • Playground collection (23.6.21) £135.00 	
276/2021	RESOLVED: To authorise payment of the following accounts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr M Dearnley £365.40 • Mr M Dearnley (Home Working Allowance) £20.00 • Mr M Dearnley (Reimbursement for purchase of coin counting machine) £162.90 • Mr A Workman £112.00 • Jigsaw (June) £653.14 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coniston Institute (Room Hire) £15.00 • LDNPA Local Plan £10.00 • Fullpoint Printing (Wildflower) £270.60 • EON (Direct Debit - Streetlights) £58.56 • EON (Direct Debit – Public Toilets) £16.16 	
277/2021	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>RESOLVED: Councillors noted the following e-mails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLDC Press Release: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eligible businesses urged to apply for coronavirus support grants ○ Help shape the future of South Lakeland ○ Locality Services - Town and Parish Councils Newsletter - July • Cumbria Constabulary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coronavirus update 18.6.21, ○ Road blocked and closures in place following Ulverston A590 collision ○ Child Centred Policing Teams ○ June 2021 - The Lakes & Lakes rural ○ June 2021 - Ulverston, Low Furness, High Furness & Grange • Rural Bulletin June, July • Lian Dixon: Village maintenance • Velo Retro September 5th 2021 • Mr P Johnson: Invitation to inspect temporary car park on Lands Field • National Association of Civil Officers: Newsletter • Mr D Coxon: Short-life campsites • Cumbria CVS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action for Health & Mental Health Provider Forum Bulletin • Cumbria County Council Press Release: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Highways Information Asset Management System Launch Briefing ○ Delta variant causing sharp rise in cases across Cumbria ○ Cumbrians aged 12-30 asked to get tested as Delta variant cases rise ○ Covid-19: Important Public Health Update ○ COVID-19: Surge testing update ○ Covid cases rising rapidly as public respond to 'surge testing' call ○ Covid cases double following surge testing ○ Emergency road closure - A593 Yewdale Road, Coniston effective from 9am 5.7.21 (received 11:54am 5.7.21) ○ Cumbria Highways Update: The new online reporting form is now live • CALC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons ○ Updated Funeral Guidance ○ Analysis of local council precept data 2021-22 ○ Friends of the Lake District Landscape Grant Fund ○ Covid Step 4 Lifting of Restrictions • South Lakeland Area Support 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Posters for vaccine bus this week ○ Senior Community Friendship Club Summer edition ● Torver Parish Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Minutes June ● Hawkshead Parish Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Minutes June ● Lakes Parish Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agenda June ● Lake District National Park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lands Field Update 3a June 2021 ○ Lands Field Update 4 June 2021 ○ Consultation - Windermere Gateway Transport Infrastructure Delivery Supplementary Planning Document ○ Lands Field: Report from the Head of Development Management to the Development Control Committee ● Coniston 14: Coniston 14 Road Race, Saturday October 9th ● Rusland Horizons: Newsletter ● Coniston Institute and Ruskin Museum: Ruskin statement 	
278/2021	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7pm on Monday, 16th August at St Andrew's Parish Church.</p>	

Part One of the meeting closed at 8:50pm

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Date

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Signed & Approved by (Chair)