

# Coniston Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of Coniston Parish Council Held at the Reading Room, Coniston Institute, Coniston at 7pm on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021

**Present:** Councillor T Coward (Chair)  
Councillors – H Troughton, J Buller, C Sergeant, J Airey, S Atkinson  
Clerk – M Dearnley

**In attendance:** Mr Glyn Davies, Mr Phil Johnston, Mrs Charlotte Crisp

The Chair marked the return to the Parish Council's regular meeting place in the Reading Room by taking the opportunity to thank everyone for their efforts during the last 18 months, and especially to thank those members of the public who engaged with the Parish Council to ensure that the life and work of the village continued even during the most trying of times.

Minute Number	PART ONE	Action By
282/2021	<b>Apologies</b>  Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Thompson.	
283/2021	<b>Requests for Dispensations</b>  None.	
284/2021	<b>Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of Agenda items</b>  The Parish Council is Custodian Trustee of the Coniston Institute and Ruskin Museum.	
285/2021	<b>Minutes</b>  <b>RESOLVED:</b> that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2021 were approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.	
286/2021	<b>Public Participation</b>  <u>District Councillors</u>  Councillor Coward: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Due to ongoing staff shortages Green bin collection may be disrupted to ensure that Grey bin collection is prioritised,</li><li>• The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has announced the government's decision to abolish Cumbria County Council in May 2023 and to form a new single tier unitary authority by combining South Lakeland District Council, Barrow Borough Council and Eden District Council.</li></ul>	

	<p><u>Lake District National Park</u></p> <p>Ms Charlotte Fuke reported that the issues reported along the east of the lake were being addressed by establishing pop-up car parks at Peer jetty, temporary toilet facilities both at the jetty and at Machell's Coppice. These steps were supported by continued weekend patrols, which were being guided by the proactive use of CValerts by locals.</p> <p>In addition, Ms Sara Spicer reported that several pop-up camp sites had been established to relieve encourage legal camping, and signage had been erected at camping sites to encourage responsible usage. Overflow car parks had been established at Walna Scar, Monk Coniston and Coniston Boating Centre. Signage, repainting yellow lines and cones are being used to encourage road users to make good decisions by informing them of access and parking restrictions.</p>	
	<p><u>National Trust</u></p> <p>Mr Moffat submitted a report that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor management has been challenging. Gondola in particular had issues with visitors getting in her way on the water and jumping off jetties.</li> <li>• No vacant properties in the parish and none coming up.</li> <li>• Tree disease continues to increase for larch and ash, there will be significant work extending well into the autumn.</li> </ul> <p><u>Coniston Business Forum</u></p> <p>Mr Rutland indicated that the business community is very busy; as a result, there had not been a Forum meeting for a while.</p> <p><u>Coniston and Torver Community Land Trust</u></p> <p>Councillor Troughton reported that the new properties on Yewdale Road will be advertised in November. A new housing needs survey will be conducted in the new year.</p> <p><u>Councillors attending the Institute Committee meeting</u></p> <p>Councillor Sargeant reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The model boat regatta had been successful</li> <li>• Footfall and takings at the Museum had returned to near pre-pandemic levels</li> <li>• The new constitution is being developed.</li> <li>• As D Cooper's exhibition ends, a new exhibition by K McCherry was to begin.</li> <li>• The issue of Bluebird continues.</li> </ul>	

287/2021	<p><u>Public Participation</u></p> <p>Mr Davies presented the findings of the working group of which he belongs. Some of the background, findings and proposals are detailed below.</p> <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>The issue of tourist parking and parking enforcement has not been addressed in Coniston as well as it has been in other areas. Parking is vital to the long-term well-being of the village's residents and businesses.</p> <p>The group had looked at a range of villages and small towns to identify what parking strategies they had in place, how well they worked and what could be learnt from them.</p> <p>Common themes included: parking being provided primarily by public institutions, each community providing for overflow parking on the perimeter of the community, supported by good signage to relieve traffic issues, on street parking was for limited time, effective enforcement was essential, resident only parking was identified in certain areas.</p> <p><u>Findings/Proposals</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident/authorised employer only parking was needed in Coniston in areas such as The Garth, Collingwood Close, Hellens Court, Hawkshead Old Road, Ruskin Avenue and Beck Yeat.</li> <li>• The busier thoroughfares of the village such as Lake Road should have clearly marked and enforced double yellow lines.</li> <li>• Larger coaches are not suitable on local roads and so coach parking should not be provided, or if provided it should be at the existing Ruskin Avenue car park.</li> <li>• Overspill car parks could be utilised and/or created at the Head of the Lake, and Town Field. These could soak up any additional need if John Ruskin School, or other useful car parking areas in the village, were not able to accommodate the need for parking.</li> </ul> <p>Councillor Coward thanked Mr Davies and his group for the work and thought they had put into this vital issue.</p> <p>Councillor Sargeant requested that areas other than the village and Monk Coniston could be included in future work the group undertakes.</p> <p>Mr Johnston referred to a tactical visitor management plan produced in October 2020, this document implored landowners to consider using fields for temporary car parking after which he made improvements to Lands Field to enable this to happen.</p> <p>The LDNPA deemed that this work required planning consent and issued and Enforcement Order, however, a planning application will be submitted to create a permanent car park at Lands Field.</p>	
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	<p>Mr Johnston reported that a daily average of 38 coaches come through Coniston, however, these are only served by 3 coach parking spaces. He envisages that these will be accommodated in the future at Lands Field.</p> <p>Since the car park came in to operation some 5,250 cars had visited the car park, however, this also includes 750 visits by residents or workers in the village who had been issued with free passes. On the busiest day, 140 cars were parked at Lands Field.</p> <p>Mr Johnston has commissioned Cumbria Tourism to conduct a car parking survey of visitors and businesses. He indicated that Helen Tate, a personal friend, would be producing the report.</p>	
288/2021	<p><b>Planning Applications</b></p> <p><u>Reference: 7/2021/5654</u> Location: Pier Cottage, Pier Cottage Caravan Site, Coniston, LA21 8AJ Proposal: Replacement of septic tank with treatment plant <b>RESOLVED:</b> No objection</p>	
289/2021	<p><b>NOTED:</b> Councillors noted the following Notice of Grants of Planning Permission:</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)</p> <p><u>Reference: 7/2021/5515</u> Location: Hollin Bank Farm, Coniston, LA21 8AG Proposal: Retention of 12 boreholes and associated works</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</p>	
290/2021	<p><b>Local Government Reorganisation</b></p> <p>The Parish Council noted the announcement by the Secretary of State to establish a new unitary authority in the Furness and Westmorland areas based on Barrow Borough Council, South Lakeland District Council and Eden District Council.</p>	

291/2021	<p><b>Coniston Maintenance, Parking and Highways</b></p> <p><u>Lake Road Playground Safety Report</u></p> <p>The annual inspection and report had been completed by ROSPA. This indicates that there are no serious issues that would require equipment to be removed from use. There are a number of lesser issues to address as part of the maintenance programme. Councillor Atkinson will contact Playdale Ltd to ask them to quote to address the remedial work. The running boards of the rocking horse were mentioned and Mr Johnston generously offered to pay for a refurbishment. Mr Clarke will be asked to quote for repair and refurbishment.</p> <p><u>Parking Issue at Wrayside House</u></p> <p>It was believed that the short-term solutions found by the medical practice are working, but that a longer-term solution involving clear road marking was desirable. This is an issue for the medical practice to register with Highways on the Portal.</p> <p><u>Highways and Maintenance Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Townson Ground has a hedge growing into the road.</li> <li>• Exit of road from Tarn Hows car park onto Hawkshead Road is in need for cutting back as it is creating a hazard to road users.</li> <li>• The saplings growing along Hawkshead Road to the east of the access to Jon Watson's pop up camping field are creating a hazard to road users.</li> <li>• The drainage issues at Little Moss/Yewdale Road have not yet been resolved. Councillor Buller has been in communication with the Housing Association to help get action taken before the rains of autumn and winter set in.</li> <li>• Mr Workman has been busy refurbishing the bus shelter in the village. There is a long list of other tasks, which require his attention.</li> </ul>	
292/2021	<p><b>Public Toilet Renovations</b></p> <p>The clerk gave a verbal report which indicated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The tender document is being rewritten to enable contractors to have more flexibility in relation to the materials to be used in the renovation,</li> <li>• South Lakeland District Council is considering the request to transfer the asset to Coniston Parish Council.</li> </ul>	
293/2021	<p><b>Coniston Parish Council Website</b></p> <p>Councillor Buller reported that the design of the home page is encouraging and future development is progressing well.</p>	
294/2021	<p><b>Safer Lakes</b></p> <p>This year there has been a marked increase in the use of Coniston Water as a recreational space. This brings with it hazards which many visitors seem ill prepared to anticipate or respond to.</p>	

	<b>RESOLVED:</b> For Councillor Atkinson to approach Mrs Fuke at the Lake District National Park to highlight the Parish Council's concerns regarding water safety. Councillor Sargeant, as the Parish Council's representative on the Coniston Water Association, will raise the matter with that body.													
295/2021	<p><b>Climate Focus</b></p> <p>The wildflower area is to be strimmed. Sam Clarke has repaired the information sign that had recently been damaged. Councillor Brereton had been contacted regarding the feasibility of converting the verges on the school side of Lake Road into wildflower verges.</p> <p>The brambles on Dow How are to be targeted by Coniston Ground Care, it is hoped that without their dominance other plants and flowers will begin to have the space to thrive.</p>													
296/2021	<p><b>Councillor Matters</b></p> <p><u>Councillor Coward</u> Informed the meeting that the North West Air Ambulance sculpture is soon to be located on the Campbell Memorial Green.</p> <p><u>Councillor Sargeant</u> Asked if it was possible to explore the possibility of building a bridge from Low Beck to the playground, thereby removing the necessity of walking along Lake Road.</p>													
	<b>Financial Matters</b>													
297/2021	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To note the following receipts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toilet collection (14.7.21) £235.00</li> </ul>													
298/2021	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To authorise payment of the following accounts:</p> <table> <tbody> <tr> <td>• Mr M Dearnley</td> <td>£365.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Mr M Dearnley (Home Working Allowance)</td> <td>£20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Mr A Workman</td> <td>£240.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Jigsaw (June)</td> <td>£620.96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• L T Locksmith &amp; Security</td> <td>£87.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Playsafe Limited</td> <td>£103.20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	• Mr M Dearnley	£365.40	• Mr M Dearnley (Home Working Allowance)	£20.00	• Mr A Workman	£240.00	• Jigsaw (June)	£620.96	• L T Locksmith & Security	£87.00	• Playsafe Limited	£103.20	
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	<b>Correspondence</b>													
299/2021	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Councillors noted the following e-mails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SLDC Press Release: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cumbria County Council: New cases top 2000 for first time since January</li> <li>○ Candidates confirmed for Grange by-election</li> <li>○ COVID-19 update from CCC</li> <li>○ Council agenda</li> <li>○ Leader pledges new authority will deliver for communities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>													

- Don't lose your voice - Residents urged to check their voter registration details
  - Free Family Craft Activities
  - News release with pictures - Appleby Horse Fair migration through South Lakeland begins
  - Blue green algae reported in Windermere
  - Online Art for Wellbeing taster
  - New pump track hot on heels of reopened play area in Windermere
  - Successful property services partnership praised
  - Your chance to help shape the future of South Lakeland
  - Entrepreneurs receiving expert help to fix the future
  - Green waste collection disruption warning
- Cumbria Constabulary
  - Coronavirus update 23.7.21,
  - July 2021 - Ulverston, Low Furness, High Furness & Grange
- Cllr Matt Brereton: Report
- Karen Birch: John Ruskin School Governing Body
- Jeff Carroll: Yew Tree Tarn
- Terena Plowright: Greening Project
- Tim Rowe: Sally Rowe Seat
- Glynn Davies:
- Charlotte Crisp:
- Gaynor Prior: Cumbria Way Ultra 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> September
- RoSPA Play Safety Inspection Reports
- Westmorland Red Squirrels: July 2021 E-News
- Environment Agency:
  - Latest newsletter from the Flood Hub
  - Key Stage 2 Flood education package on The Flood Hub
- Coniston Institute: Minutes and Agenda
- Velo Retro Vintage Cycling Sunday September 5th 2021
- Cumbria CVS
  - Health and Social Care Recruitment
  - Action for Health & Mental Health Provider Forum Bulletin
  - South Funding Fair
- Cumbria County Council Press Release:
  - Heat warning
  - Covid infections surge, county on track for worst ever week
  - Adult Learning Brochures
  - First drop in covid infections for seven weeks
- CALC:
  - Newsletter June/July
  - Communicating Issues Around Climate Change
  - Larger Councils CALC LGR discussion
  - Parish Council Apologies
- Torver Parish Council:
  - Minutes July
  - Planning Application

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hawkshead Parish Council           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Agenda July</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lakes Parish Council           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Agenda July</li> </ul> </li> <li>• NHS: UHMBT urges all to get two COVID-19 jabs as Trust delivers 128,000 vaccinations</li> <li>• Rural Services Network: Rural Bulletins and Rural Funding Digest</li> <li>• Lake District National Park:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Simon Hill feedback to Lakeland 100</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>300/2021</b>	<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7pm on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> September in the Reading Room at the Coniston Institute.</p>	

The meeting closed at 8:38pm

Date .....

Signed & Approved by (Chair)

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