

Coniston Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Coniston Parish Council Held at Coniston Primary School, Coniston at 7pm on Monday, 20th September 2021

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

In attendance: County Councillor M Brereton, and 9 members of the public

Minute Number	PART ONE	Action By
301/2021	<p>Apologies</p> <p>There were no apologies.</p> <p>Councillor Thompson's resignation had been received. The Chair and the Parish Council joined in thanking Councillor Thompson for his years of service.</p>	
302/2021	<p>Requests for Dispensations</p> <p>None.</p>	
303/2021	<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. Councillor Troughton had previously been employed by Mr Johnston, planning applicant (6.1 7/2021/5696 and 7/2021/5711); similarly Councillor Coward's holiday cottage is let-out through the planning applicant's letting agency. Both Councillors Troughton and Coward determined to take no part in discussion or decision making in relation to these planning issues.</p>	
304/2021	<p>Minutes</p> <p>RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd August 2021 were approved as a true and accurate record subject to the inclusion of a minor amendment. These are to be signed at a later date.</p>	
305/2021	<p>Public Participation</p> <p><u>County Councillor</u></p> <p>Councillor Brereton reported on a range of issues with particular emphasis on highways, parking and enforcement matters including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency parking measure can be flagged up to the County Council and, where circumstances dictate, they will respond quickly. 	

- He had allocated a part of his Highway Members Fund to support the new signing required at The Ship.
- B4RN is being debated in the House of Commons. Meetings are being held throughout the Upper Furness to move the project forward.
- Local Government Reorganisation, working groups will be set up soon to work out details across a range of issues including budgets.

District Councillors

Councillor Coward:

- Business Grants still available, however, it is hoped that all those eligible have accessed them by now.
- Locality Grants will be available soon.
- Parliamentary constituency reform is still ongoing.
- Due to ongoing staff shortages, Green bin collection may be disrupted to ensure that Grey bin collection is prioritised.

National Trust

Mr Moffat submitted a report that:

- Visitor management has been challenging. The area remains busy and will so well in to October.
- Steam yacht Gondola remains busy, it is not operating on Fridays but as with other attractions such as Beatrix Potter Gallery, Hill Top and Wray Castle, it will operate to the end of October.
- No vacant properties in the parish and none coming up. New tenants will take over Boon Crag farm from the end of September.
- Tree disease continues to increase for larch and ash, there will be significant work extending well into the autumn.
- The National Trust is in contact with B4RN's local team to identify access issues.

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. The Forum has kept members informed of issues surrounding car parking in the village including the planning issues at Land's Field. The Forum itself is not taking a position, but has advised those members who feel strongly to make their views known via the correct channels.

Coniston and Torver Community Land Trust

Mr Cameron briefed the parish council on delay to occupancy of the houses on Church Room Field, Yewdale Road. He also updated progress on the development of the heritage work being undertaken at the slate quarry, Saddlestone Bank.

Councillors attending the Institute Committee meeting

Councillor Sargeant reported that:

- The Vintage Fair will end on the 3rd October 2021 this will allow the

main hall to be used for music events.

- The is a 'Day with Gina' event scheduled for the 25th September
- The Ruskin Museum will be closing for Christmas on the 17th December.
- Visitor numbers have been at almost pre-pandemic levels.
- The new constitution is being developed.
- The Annual General Meeting will be held on 12th October 2021.
- The issue of Bluebird continues: various options were itemised, it is hoped that all parties can agree a positive way forward.

306/2021

Public Participation

There were a number of representations from members of the public in relation to the planning application 7/2021/5696 being considered at this meeting.

Points against the application were presented in written form and read out by the clerk. Points included:

- The scale of the development makes the car park and the surrounding roads unsafe for both vehicles and pedestrians
- There are no on-site facilities
- There are no electric charging points or disabled car parking spaces
- The development constitutes an a major development in contravention of the Coniston Neighbourhood Plan 2015,
- It has an excessive impact on the landscape in an historic village in a World Heritage landscape.
- Contrary to Policy 22: Sustainable travel, it encourage the use of private motor vehicles.

Points raised in favour of the application were made by several individuals including the applicant:

- A local business indicated that the car park has had a positive impact on business, on staff as well as addressing the parking and traffic issues in the village.
- Mr Johnston explained the need for a car park and addressed some of the issues raised in the letters which had been read out:
- The number of visitors to the Lake District had grown exponentially during the last decade; this has led to increased traffic and parking difficulties.
- The Tactical Management Group encouraged landowners to establish pop-up car parks to create additional spaces to absorb increased need.
- Existing car parks such as Ruskin Avenue were full for much of the day.
- Electric car charging was too expensive to undertake at present.
- Disabled car parking spaces had not been included as this was a temporary car park.
- Engineers had approved drainage and other ground works.
- The car park will encourage longer stays, fewer journeys, joined up transport links.
- The three reports submitted immediately before the meeting all showed support for additional car parking in the village.

<p>307/2021</p>	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p><u>Reference: 7/2021/5568</u> Location: 2 Ivy Cottages, Far End, Coniston, LA21 8DE Proposal: Demolition of an existing extension to create a parking space; alterations and new extension to the original cottage RESOLVED: No objections</p> <p><u>Reference: 7/2021/5639</u> Location: Coniston Park Coppice Caravan Site, Park Gate, Coniston, LA21 8LA Proposal: Change of use of land to site five caravans and the erection of a storage shed RESOLVED: No objections</p> <p><u>Reference: 7/2021/5696</u> Location: Lands Field, Yewdale Road, Coniston Proposal: Change of use to seasonal car park and associated works RESOLVED: Objection</p> <p><u>Reference: 7/2021/5711</u> Location: Land at Lands Field, Yewdale Road, Coniston Proposal: Operational development consisting of excavations and infilling with stone RESOLVED: Objection</p> <p><u>Reference: CTIL_12484403</u> Location: High Man, Grizedale Forest, Coniston, LA21 8AJ Proposal: Upgrade to existing radio base station installation at Norweb Mast RESOLVED: No objections</p>	
<p>308/2021</p>	<p>NOTED: Councillors noted the following Notice of Grants of Planning Permission:</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</p>	
<p>309/2021</p>	<p>Broadband for the Rural North (B4RN)</p> <p>A meeting held on 1st September had generated a good level of interest. It is hoped to achieve closer working ties with neighbouring parish councils to help achieve the introduction of B4RN to benefit residents in the parish to be able to access effective broadband.</p>	

310/2021	<p>Coniston Maintenance, Parking and Highways</p> <p><u>Lake Road Playground</u></p> <p>Playdale Ltd inspected the playground, as the equipment is 13 to 14 years old there is a need to identify a the expected life expectancy, design of replacement equipment and cost.</p> <p>Councillor Brereton indicated that a grant application should be submitted to the Children and Young People’s Working Group.</p> <p><u>Highways and Maintenance Issues</u></p> <p>Councillor Troughton highlighted the road safety issues experienced by the residents of Far End, Holly How Youth Hostel and Holly How Close whilst attempting to walk into the village. Highways are to be alerted to these concerns in the expectation that they might identify a safe walking route into the village.</p>	
311/2021	<p>Public Toilet Renovations</p> <p>A further meeting of the working group will be held to identify the most appropriate way forward. Councillor Atkinson will take the place left vacant following Councillor Thompson’s resignation.</p>	
312/2021	<p>Coniston Parish Council Website</p> <p>Councillor Buller reported that the design of the home page is encouraging and future development is progressing well.</p>	
313/2021	<p>Safer Lakes</p> <p>It was noted that this had been a busy summer, but joint working between key agencies appears to have been effective in curtailing the worst excesses of last year. Temporary parking provision had increased capacity, innovation such as the use of shuttle buses to ferry people between car parks and areas they want to visit have been useful in reducing, and managing, vehicular traffic.</p> <p>It was noted that visitors who did not avail themselves of the toileting facilities in the village were misusing the Old Furness Road area. Councillor Brereton indicated that he held a contingency fund to help areas deal with additional visitors and requested to be contacted in order to arrange funding.</p>	
314/2021	<p>Climate Focus</p> <p>St Andrew’s Church have given the Parish Council the authority to manage the wide verge along Old Hawkshead Road to the left of the lych gate into the graveyard with the intention that this can be used as a bed for native bulbs and wildflowers. Funding for the project has been secured from Mr Phil Blaylock, Lakeland Trails. Mrs Lian Dixon has agreed to lead on the project and Councillor Coward will work with Coniston Get Buzzing Group to</p>	

	<p>seek active involvement in the design and implementation of the scheme.</p> <p>Mr Carroll raised the issue of the National Park land comprising the slope below Old Furness Road and above Station Road. This area has been neglected and would make a suitable site for the creation of a nature reserve in the heart of the village.</p>			
315/2021	<p>South Lakeland Code of Conduct for Councillors</p> <p>RESOLVED: to adopt the nationally agreed Code of Conduct and to attend training organised by South Lakeland District Council.</p>			
316/2021	<p>First Aid and Water Safety</p> <p>The greatly appreciated work of the First Responders was discussed. The need to attract further recruits will be supported by the Parish Council.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Councillor Sargeant will work with Judith Myers, First Responders, to compile a list of defibrillators in the parish.</p>			
317/2021	<p>Councillor Matters</p> <p><u>Councillor Troughton</u> Dog dirt in the parish is becoming a problem and, now that visitor numbers are falling, one that cannot be blamed on non-residents. South Lakeland District Council needs to be encouraged to be more pro-active in relation to enforcement.</p> <p><u>Councillor Coward</u> Mr Willy Watson has recently passed the 35 years in the fire service, the parish council asked the clerk to write to thank him for his years of service.</p> <p><u>Councillor Atkinson</u> The Water Safety Campaign will be extended to cover Coniston Water.</p>			
318/2021	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>RESOLVED: To note the following receipts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilet collection (20.8.21) £270.00 			
319/2021	<p>RESOLVED: To authorise payment of the following accounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr M Dearnley £365.40 • Mr M Dearnley (Home Working Allowance) £20.00 • Jigsaw (August) £485.88 • Janice Johnston £30.00 			
320/2021	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>RESOLVED: Councillors noted the following e-mails:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Lake District National Park</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Tactical Visitor Management Group (TVMG)</td> </tr> </table>	Lake District National Park	Tactical Visitor Management Group (TVMG)	
Lake District National Park	Tactical Visitor Management Group (TVMG)			

Authority	Summer Newsletter Proposed Temporary Closure Order - Motor Rallies 2021/22 TVMG End of Summer Newsletter Lands Field Update 5 and E/2021/0023 a & b Lands Field Update 6 and E/2021/0023
South Lakeland District Council	Council cleans up after Appleby Horse Fair Candidates confirmed for Kendal by-elections Handy Person Scheme Recycling provision in Windermere to change
Cumbria County Council	Cumbria sees cases rise by 9% during last week in July Cumbria sees 54% rise in cases during August Cumbria COVID cases jump 20% in 7 days Cases rising amongst younger age groups as 12-15 vaccine rollout set to begin NW Coastal Access Update Cumbria Highways Update
Cumbria Constabulary	Ulverston, Low Furness, High Furness & Grange – August 2021 The Lakes & Lakes Rural – August 2021
Highways, Transport & Fleet	Road Closure at Shop Bridge, Broughton Mills
Lakes Parish Council	Agenda & Minutes
Hawkshead Parish Council	Minutes (draft) Agenda (September)
Torver Parish Council	Agenda (August) Extraordinary Meeting Agenda Revised Extraordinary Meeting Agenda Draft Minutes Tree Felling Napping Tree Parish Plan Review
National Association of Civic Officers	Newsletter 13.9.21
Cumbria Association of Local Councils	Banks Campaign Update Local Government Reorganisation Update South Lakeland District Meeting 16 September 2021 Zero Carbon Partnership Newsletter DEFRA Local Nature Strategies consultation Minutes of June District Meeting New Code of Conduct
Bay Health & Care Partners	Stakeholder Newsletter Issue 3
Castle Design Services	Coniston Public Toilets Tender Specification
Cumbria CVS	Action for Health & Mental Health Provider Forum Bulletin (August) South Funding Fair Funding Opportunities Action for Health & Mental Health Provider Forum Bulletin (September)
Rural Services Network	The Rural Bulletin - 24 August 2021 The Rural Bulletin - 1 September 2021 The Rural Bulletin - 7 September 2021 Rural Funding Digest - September 2021

		The Rural Bulletin - 14 September 2021	
	SLDC Locality Services	Town and Parish Councils Newsletter - August	
	Coniston Business Forum	B4RN meeting Raising awareness of appeal against planning enforcement at Lands Field Email from Mr P Johnston stating the case for his appeal against enforcement and linking to an online petition	
	South Lakeland Area Support	National Resilience Strategy Community Flood Training Sessions Community Information Community Learning Courses	
	ACTion with Communities in Cumbria	Legacy Donation Query Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan - Public Consultation	
	Velo Retro Vintage Cycling	Update and Feedback	
	Clarke Telecom	Norweb mast – High Man, preplanning consultation	
	Jeff Carroll	Parkgate Drain	
	Glynn Davies	Interim Parking Study	
	Nick Monk	Graveyard verges	
	Philip Johnston	Various re: Lands Field Car Park and related planning matters	
	Charlotte Crisp	Various re: Lands Field Car Park and related planning matters	
	Cumbria Wildlife Trust	New Cumbria Pollinator and Gardening Guide	
321/2021	Next Meeting		
	The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7pm on Monday, 18th October at Coniston Primary School.		

The meeting closed at 9.01pm

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Date

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Signed & Approved by (Chair)

..... Date Chair Initials