

Coniston Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Coniston Parish Council held at the Coniston Institute, Coniston at 7pm on Monday, 16th January 2023

Present: Councillors: T Coward, H Troughton, C Sargeant, S Atkinson, J Buller, and R McCracken
Clerk: M Dearnley
Members of the Public: None

Minute Number		Action By
100/2023	<p>Apologies</p> <p>None.</p>	
101/2023	<p>Requests for Dispensations.</p> <p>None.</p>	
102/2023	<p>Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of Agenda items</p> <p>None.</p>	
103/2023	<p>Minutes</p> <p>RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th December were approved as a true and accurate.</p>	
104/2024	<p>Public Participation</p> <p>County Councillor: Matt Brereton reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re gritting, replenishing salt heaps and grit bins, and road sweeping had fallen short of what has been needed this winter. Lessons will be taken forward into the new authorities in the expectation that this will not be repeated in future years. • Progress is being made on a pilot to install a street based EV charging point in the parish, if successful this might be a model to increase EV charging capacity across the county. • The new ferry between Sawrey and Windermere has been cancelled. This is as disappointing as it is surprising and explanations are being sought. <p>Coniston and Torver Community Land Trust. The impact of the Trust on the provision of housing in the parish and its impact on community services such as the primary school was noted. It was suggested that there might be a need for an up-to-date housing needs survey.</p> <p>National Trust. No report, however, Councillors Coward and McCracken are dealing with Paul Kear in relation to matters relating to water quality.</p> <p>Coniston Institute The minutes of the last meeting was circulated. There is a particular focus on the 75th anniversary of the Coniston Mountain Rescue Team and the exhibition at the Institute.</p>	

<p>105/2023</p>	<p>Tilberthwaite Management Group. Initially established with a two-year remit to identify issues and potential solutions to problems using the unclassified roads it is proposed to continue the Group's work. The meeting agreed that this is a useful and beneficial group and were keen for it to continue and for Councillor Sargeant to continue to represent the Parish Council.</p> <p>Mr D Adams communicated to the meeting that the fence reported as being in need of repair had been fixed, but that repairs to potholes and the handrail leading up to The Banks from the car park still need auctioning.</p>	
<p>106/2023</p> <p>107/2023</p> <p>108/2023</p> <p>109/2023</p> <p>110/2023</p> <p>111/2023</p>	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p><u>Reference:</u> 7/2022/5524 Location: Kirkbeck Villa, Coniston, LA21 8EL Proposal: Demolition of existing garage and construction of 2-storey workshop/garage RESOLVED: Objection</p> <p><u>Reference:</u> 7/2022/5785 Location: 10 Beck Yeat, Coniston, LA21 8HT Proposal: Single storey front and two storey rear extension following refusal of 7/2022/5631 RESOLVED: Objection</p> <p><u>Reference:</u> 7/2022/5787 Location: Beckthwaite, Lake Road, Coniston, Cumbria, LA21 8EW Proposal: Demolition of the existing dwelling. Proposed Erection of a two storey, four bedroom dwelling RESOLVED: Objection</p> <p><u>Reference:</u> 7/2022/5801 Location: The Chapel, Beckthwaite, Coniston Proposal: Change of use from a former joinery workshop/funeral directors into a three bedroom dwelling RESOLVED: Objection</p> <p>NOTED: The following Notices of Grant of Planning Permission</p> <p><u>Reference:</u> 7/2022/5686 Location: The Nant, Coniston LA21 8EF Proposal: Extension to the kitchen</p> <p><u>Reference:</u> 7/2022/5577 Location: Lakeland House, Coniston, LA21 8ED Proposal: Change of use of Guest House and Cafe to provide Staff Accommodation for The Inn Collection Group</p> <p><u>Reference:</u> 7/2022/5703 Location: Hills Garage, Coniston, LA21 8EN Proposal: Fascia signage: 'SPAR' and 'HILLS'</p> <p><u>Reference:</u> 7/2022/ Location: Black Bull, Coniston, LA21 8DU Proposal: Replacement substation and ancillary apparatus</p> <p>RESOLVED: Not to submit a written representation to support the enforcement action by the Lake District National Park in relation to the following:</p>	

	Reference: <u>E/2022/0140</u> Location: Land south of boat house, Bank Ground Farm, Coniston, LA21 8AA	
112/2023	Coniston Maintenance, Parking and Highway Issues County Councillor Brereton had mentioned the issue of Working Together as a concept. This was a scheme whereby the Parish Council would undertake low level highways maintenance tasks and call for support from the County Council for larger undertakings. Unfortunately, despite the Parish Council appointing a Lengthsman to fulfil this role the County Council did not come to an agreement about reimbursing the cost. It is hoped that this model can be pursued so that it is as beneficial to the Parish Council and the residents of Coniston as it is to the Highways Authority. Councillor Suzanne Pender will be contacted and invited to future meetings.	
113/2023	Public Toilet Renovations NOTED: The meeting were briefed on the ongoing issues relating to the public toilets in the village. Repairs to the damaged property have been commissioned to enable the toilets to be opened again when the problem of vandalism diminishes. The clerk to brief PCSO Debbie Ross to enable Cumbria Constabulary to appreciate the extent of vandalism in the hope that they can identify a pattern of behaviour and identify a strategy to address it. The work on the external area including the paths has been completed and it is looking much smarter.	MD
114/2023	Climate Focus NOTED: The clerk briefed the meeting in relation to the possibility of the Parish Council taking over the tenancy of the Crown Garden at the end of the existing lease to the Lake District National Park in December 2024.	
115/2023	RESOLVED: Following a briefing on the work undertaken to secure agreement for fruit trees to be planted along Dow How Councillor Sargeant secured confirmation that this scheme met with the support of the Parish Council. The Parish Council agreed to the scheme and signed the appropriate paperwork required by Cumbria County Council's Highways Department.	
116/2023	Emergency Planning NOTED: The award of funding from Electricity North West to fund the purchase of a generator. The next steps will be to secure quotes for the supply, and maintenance of the generator; and to engage the emergency services and the Coniston Sports and Social Club into discussions that are more detailed as to how this will support the village's future emergency response.	
117/2023	Coniston Parish Council response to cost of living/energy crisis Work is progressing, but there is an impasse in securing regular supplies for the community pantry/fridge. The clerk has actively pursued this since October. A bid has been submitted to South Lakeland District Council to help secure the flow of food to the store. The network of lunches being provided by Christians Together, Helen Glaister and until recently the Sports and Social Club have been well received. Warm spaces in the village have been difficult due to many of the pubs closing for part of the week due to the slower trading conditions experienced in January. Other	

	possibilities were suggested, these included St Andrew's, the Sacred Heart, the Methodist Chapel, and the Library.	
	Human Resources Sub Committee	
118/2023	RESOLVED: To adopt the nationally agreed pay scales 2022/23 with effect from 1 st April 2022.	
119/2023	RESOLVED: To increase the clerk's salary by two spinal points with effect from August 2022.	
	Safeguarding and Equal Opportunities Policies	
120/2023	RESOLVED: To adopt the Safeguarding Policy and to make this available on the Parish Council website. To be reviewed annually.	
	Coniston Business Forum	
121/2024	NOTED: That Ron Rutland (Chair) and Harry Kilgour (Secretary) were stepping down from their leadership role on the Coniston Business Forum. The clerk was asked to write to both Ron and Harry to express the Parish Council's gratitude for their hard work over the years and to offer support to the Forum as it finds its way forward under new leadership.	MD
122/2025	Councillor Matters Councillor Sargeant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The weather during the past few weeks meant that the sandbags received from South Lakeland District Council before Christmas were being used by residents in Haws Bank and Torver. Councillor McCracken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new Westmorland and Furness Council informed parishes that Council Tax would be increased in April. Raising taxation on second homes is acceptable; however, there is a continuing need to close loopholes that enable some householders to avoid paying Council Tax or National Non Domestic Rates at all. Councillor Troughton <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bus Stop in the village needs more regular cleaning and repainting. The clerk will approach Stagecoach to enquire whether they are able to contribute toward the cost. It transpired that the bus stop at Hawes Bank also requires some maintenance. 	
	Financial Matters	
123/2023	RESOLVED: To note the receipt the following receipts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barclays Bank (Interest) £4.87 	
124/2023	RESOLVED: To authorise payment of the following accounts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr M Dearnley (Salary) £386.75 Mr M Dearnley (Home Working Allowance) £20.00 Mr M Dearnley (Finger Prints Leaflet/Posters) £106.40 Hope Digital (waterproof maps) £45.98 Jigsaw (Cleaning – December) £135.22 SWN (path repair and renewal at public toilets) £2,064.00 DCM Surfaces (Playground Surface) £1,620.00 Brady Corp Ltd (Gritter) £187.13 Janice Johnston (Christmas Tree removal) £50.00 	

125/2024	RESOLVED: To donate £100 toward the Coniston and Crake Benefice Magazine.	
126/2023	Correspondence RESOLVED: Councillors noted that a record of correspondence would be circulated before the January meeting.	
127/2023	Next Meeting The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7pm on Monday, 20 th February at the Coniston Institute.	

The meeting closed at 9:20pm

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Date

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Signed & Approved by (Chair)