

# Coniston Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of Coniston Parish Council held at the Reading Room of the Coniston Institute, Coniston at 7pm on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**Present:** Councillors: H Troughton, D Adams, J Buller and R McCracken  
Westmorland and District Council: S Pender  
Clerk: M Dearnley  
Members of the Public: A Dixon, L Ruxton, S Hill

Minute Number		Action By
311/2023	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To accept apologies from Councillor Coward.</p> <p>Councillor Atkinson was not in attendance.</p>	
312/2023	<p><b>Requests for Dispensations.</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
313/2023	<p><b>Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of Agenda items</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
314/2023	<p><b>Minutes</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> The minutes of the meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were approved with a minor amendment regarding the name of the applicant for Bathing Water Status.</p>	
315/2023	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
316/2023	<p><b>Public Participation</b></p> <p><u>Westmorland and Furness Council:</u> Councillor Pender reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sher had attended a very enjoyable Community Lunch organised by Helen Glaister earlier on in the day.</li> <li>• She has worked with the X112 group to secure £16,500 funding to support the service to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.</li> <li>• Her active involvement in the Hawkshead Project to help secure its role in the visitor economy.</li> <li>• She is working to help secure a future for a more sustainable Windermere Ferry.</li> <li>• She has met with Graham Wheelhouse to discuss the excessive delay of seven months waiting for Highways to paint the word 'slow' on Shepherd's Bridge Lane. At the same meeting, the extremely poor state of the road over Hawkshead Hill was discussed.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Her next surgery will be held in Coniston on Friday.</li> <li>• She committed to working with the clerk to access funding to support the Coniston business community to proactively market the village.</li> </ul> <p><u>Lake District National Park:</u> Simon Hill submitted a report that described the Authority's involvement in the Hawkshead Project as well as the decision to keep their public toilets open throughout the winter.</p> <p><u>Coniston Business Forum.</u> Amy Dixon took the opportunity to introduce herself to the Parish Council and to outline how she hopes that the Business Forum will be able to work with the parish council and other groups to maintain a healthy business sector, a vital ingredient in any successful community. Now that the season has ended, it is hoped that a meeting will be arranged. She was encouraged by Councillor Pender to apply for funding to support a website, leaflets and other elements of a marketing strategy, which would be vital to take advantage of the potential return of Bluebird to Coniston.</p> <p>National Trust: Laura Ruxton and Simon Hill attended the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Moffat is on long-term sick leave this, combined with the un-timely death of Paul Kear, has required a staffing and managerial reorganisation of the South Lakes Team. Laura is supporting the local team and Simon has been promoted to Countryside Manager for the South Lakes.</li> <li>• SY Gondola <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The yacht is off the water for winter refit and repairs.</li> <li>• The booking system is being reviewed for the new year</li> <li>• There may be fewer sailings next year to improve the number of visitors on each voyage.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• It was suggested that the Gondola should have more of a presence on its jetty in the form of a more prominent information board or a member of staff.</li> <li>• The condition of jetties is being reviewed.</li> <li>• Tarn Hows has been quieter this year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signage is being reviewed,</li> <li>• the contract for Trampers is being extended, new routes are being explored</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Properties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Far End Cottage to be refurbished and to be re-let</li> <li>• The condition and future plans for other properties, including Little Arrow, will be updated after the meeting</li> </ul> </li> <li>• As the wave of tree disease is retreating, work is required to replant. The Trust aims to create a healthy landscape that acknowledges the vision for some exotic trees held by Mr Marshall.</li> <li>• The path to the jetty at Monk Coniston, and the potential need for an engineered solution to the problem of fluvial erosion, is to be discussed by the Trust and National Park</li> </ul> <p><u>Coniston and Torver Community Land Trust:</u> Alastair Cameron outlined the proposed work to be undertaken in the new year to monitor compliance with local occupancy clauses.</p> <p>It was noted that no response has been received from the Coniston Institute and Ruskin Museum to letters written by the Parish Council regarding the security of assets during forthcoming legal action.</p>	<p>SP/MD</p> <p>AD</p> <p>LR</p>
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<p><b>317/2023</b></p> <p><b>318/2023</b></p> <p><b>319/2023</b></p> <p><b>320/2023</b></p> <p><b>321/2023</b></p>	<p><b>Planning Applications</b></p> <p>Reference: 7/2023/5657 Location: Long Crag House, Coniston, LA21 8HQ Proposal: Proposed alteration and extensions, addition of air source heat pumps and photovoltaic panels. <b>RESOLVED:</b> No objection</p> <p>Reference: 7/2023/5560 Location: 6 Yewdale Road, Coniston, LA21 8DU Proposal: Fascia signs <b>RESOLVED:</b> Objection</p> <p>Reference: 7/2023/5572 Location: 19 Beck Yeat, Coniston, LA21 8HT Proposal: Proposed single storey rear extension, part garage conversion and interior alterations throughout with associated tree felling. <b>RESOLVED:</b> Objection</p> <p><b>NOTED:</b> The successful grant of planning permission:</p> <p>Reference: 7/2022/5614 Location: Heathwaite Farm, Coniston Proposal: Creation of a new access road</p> <p><b>NOTED:</b> The successful appeal to the Planning Inspectorate</p> <p>Reference: E/2020/0140 Location: Land to the North and South of the Boat House, Bank Ground Farm, Coniston, LA21 8AA</p> <p>Councillor McCracken asked that the Clerk ask the Planning Authority for paperwork supporting the Planning Inspectorate's decision.</p>	<p>MD</p>
<p><b>322/2023</b></p>	<p><b>Coniston Maintenance, Parking and Highway Issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clerk to collate the emails between the Parish Council and other parties relating to the Brow Steps and share these with Cllr McCracken.</li> <li>• A new noticeboard has been requested for the bus shelter at Hawes Bank.</li> <li>• The Lengthsman is to be asked to undertake remedial work at the playground to ensure the continued safety of this facility.</li> </ul>	<p>MD</p> <p>MD</p> <p>MD/TC</p>
<p><b>323/2023</b></p>	<p><b>Public Toilets</b></p> <p><b>NOTED:</b> New, more substantial locks, have been fitted to both toilet doors. The facilities have been drained and prepared for the winter by Jigsaw Cleaning. Rock salt and spreader will be stored in the toilets in preparation for winter use.</p>	
<p><b>324/2023</b></p>	<p><b>Climate and Environmental Focus</b></p> <p>This is a standing item. No new issues were brought to the attention of the meeting.</p>	

<b>325/2023</b>	<b>Lake Road Playground</b>	
<b>326/2023</b>	<b>NOTED:</b> The recent safety inspection of the playground will be reviewed and any urgent work completed to ensure that playground equipment and environment remain suitable for continued use.	MD/TC
<b>326/2023</b>	<b>NOTED:</b> The Parish Council has been awarded £12,500 to support a range of climate and nature related schemes. This is to be delivered through a partnership with the Women's Institute.	
<b>327/2023</b>	<b>RESOLVED:</b> to direct the clerk to undertake to create a partnership with the Women's Institute to direct the implementation of the Climate and Nature Partnership Fund.	MD
<b>328/2023</b>	<b>Westmorland and Furness Code of Conduct for Councillors</b> <b>RESOLVED:</b> The revised Code was adopted.	
<b>329/2023</b>	<b>Emergency Planning</b> <b>NOTED:</b> The installation of the generator at the Coniston Sports and Social Club. Awaiting fuel and training to be fully operational.	
<b>330/2023</b>	<b>NOTED:</b> A further application has been submitted to the Cumbria Foundation's Storm Arwen Community Resilience Fund for equipment necessary for effective emergency support.	
<b>331/2023</b>	<b>RESOLVED:</b> All councillors will consider what equipment might be required to enable the Parish Council to be prepared to support individuals, businesses and organisations in the event of future emergencies and feed this list to the Clerk.	ALL
<b>332/2023</b>	<b>Councillor Matters</b> None.	
<b>333/2023</b>	<b>Financial Matters</b> <b>NOTED:</b> The following receipts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NAYAX (Income from public toilets) £253.27</li> <li>• Harvinder Uppal (Head of the Lake bench repair) £1,000.00</li> </ul>	
<b>334/2023</b>	<b>RESOLVED:</b> To authorise payment of the following accounts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jigsaw (October Cleaning) £542.35</li> <li>• M Dearnley (Salary, including backdated pay award) £717.50</li> <li>• M Dearnley (Home Working Allowance) £20.00</li> <li>• Playsafe Limited (Playground Inspection) £110.00</li> <li>• T Coates (Lengthsman) £273.13</li> <li>• Arthur J. Gallagher Insurance Brokers Limited £29.14</li> <li>• Coniston Ground Care (Ground Maintenance) £1,740.00</li> <li>• Moore (External Auditor) £252.00</li> <li>• Brady Corporation (Seton: Rock Salt) £37.13</li> <li>• Coniston Parochial Church Council (Wreaths) £50.00</li> <li>• DD Southern Electric £79.86</li> </ul>	

<b>335/2023</b>	<b>RESOLVED:</b> To donate £100.00 to the Great North Air Ambulance Service	
<b>336/2023</b>	<b>NOTED:</b> Conclusion of the audit of the Parish Council's accounts 2022/23.	
<b>337/2023</b>	<b>NOTED:</b> Financial summary April to September 2023.	
<b>338/2023</b>	<b>NOTED:</b> Draft budget and Precept	
<b>339/2023</b>	<b>Correspondence</b> No breakdown of correspondence had been circulated	
<b>340/2023</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b> The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7pm on Monday, 11 <sup>th</sup> December in the Institute Reading Room.	

The meeting closed at 9:14pm

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Date

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Signed & Approved by (Chair)