

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, 11th December 2023

Present: Councillors: T Coward, H Troughton, D Adams, S Atkinson, and R McCracken
Clerk: M Dearnley
Members of the Public: Four persons in attendance

Minute Number		Action By
341/2023	<p>Apologies</p> <p>RESOLVED: To accept apologies from Councillor Buller.</p>	
342/2023	<p>Requests for Dispensations.</p> <p>None.</p>	
343/2023	<p>Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of Agenda items</p> <p>Councillor Coward declared an interest in Item 7, Planning Application 7/2023/5678</p>	
344/2023	<p>Minutes</p> <p>RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting of 20th November 2023 were approved.</p>	
345/2023	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>A letter from the Coniston Institute and Ruskin Museum had been received on the 7th December dated 5th September that addressed issues raised in earlier correspondence. A response it is to be sent by the Chair/Clerk.</p>	MD/TC
346/2023	<p>Public Participation</p> <p><u>Westmorland and Furness Council:</u> No report.</p> <p><u>Lake District National Park:</u> No report.</p> <p><u>Coniston Business Forum.</u> No report.</p> <p><u>National Trust:</u> No report.</p> <p><u>Coniston and Torver Community Land Trust:</u> There will be a review of the management structure of the Trust in the new year.</p> <p><u>John Ruskin School</u></p> <p>Mr Blackburn updated the Council on the live of the school. There are many positives to celebrate:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil numbers in the secondary school have increased and the school is still attracting a very large number of first place preferences for the 2024/25 school year. • The Federation of the primary and secondary schools is working well. Governance issues have been resolved leaving both schools stronger than ever. • Pupil numbers in the primary school have also increased. • Coniston Primary School has undergone both SIAMS and OFSTED inspections and performed well under both inspection regimes. <p>The school are aware of low-level antisocial behaviour that has manifested itself through vandalism of various properties in and around Coniston. They have educated young people to the risk that they put themselves and other in through such actions. Mr Blackburn would encourage people to raise issues with them directly to enable the school to take more effective action.</p> <p>Councillor Coward spoke for the Council when she congratulated Mr Blackburn, Ms Fitzsimmons and the staff of both schools for the creation of thriving school communities in the parish.</p>	SP/MD
346/2023	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>Reference: 7/2023/5678 Location: Land adjacent to Brim Fell, Coniston, LA21 8EL Proposal: Two detached three bedroom flood resilient local needs dwelling-houses RESOLVED: Object</p>	MD
347/2023	<p>Coniston Maintenance, Parking and Highway Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Coates, Lengthsman, had been busy working to address vandalism at the public toilets and bus shelter, clearing paths and gritting. • Although regularly reported it was noted that the road to Hawkshead was at the worst anyone could recall. This is an issue that Councillor Pender is already working with Westmorland and Furness Council to address. • The Garth might benefit from improved signage to inform motorists that it is access only. <p>RESOLVED: To submit a bid for a 20mph scheme for areas in the village. This is to prioritise Shepherd's Bridge Lane as a matter of urgent concern.</p>	MD
348/2023	<p>Public Toilets</p> <p>This is a standing item. No new issues were brought to the attention of the meeting.</p>	
349/2023	<p>Climate and Environmental Focus</p> <p>This is a standing item. No new issues were brought to the attention of the meeting.</p>	

<p>350/2023</p>	<p>Lake Road Playground</p> <p>Funding for playground refurbishment and replacement was discussed. The Parish Council has set aside £9,000 from Reserves and other grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Atkinson has applied for grants totalling £28,000. • Councillor Pender is applying for £20,000 from Westmorland and Furness' Community Fund • The Clerk is applying for £20,000 from the National Lottery. <p>Work being undertaken by the Parish Council in partnership with the Women's Institute to support and develop habitat diversity at the playground will be undertaken so that the two projects will complement each other.</p>	<p>SA SP</p> <p>MD</p> <p>TC/MD</p>
<p>351/2023</p>	<p>Climate and Nature Partnership</p> <p>NOTED: The first meeting of the partnership will be held on Wednesday, 13th December 2023.</p>	<p>TC/MD</p>
<p>352/2023</p>	<p>Emergency Planning</p> <p>The Council reviewed the major snow incident that occurred over the 2nd and 3rd December. This was the heaviest snowfall in recent memory and over a weekend when the area was unusually full of visitors due to the Hawkshead Christmas Market and Grizedale Rally, many of whom became stranded. Despite these factors, the local response was excellent.</p> <p>The Sports and Social Club opened their doors to those who could not find emergency accommodation, providing hot food and drink and a warm place to spend the night. Special thanks to Charlotte and Ed Crisp as well as the whole staff at the Club.</p> <p>The Coniston Mountain Rescue Team were exceptional throughout the weekend; providing essential transport, first aid and emergency support for visitors and residents alike.</p> <p>Councillor Troughton was thanked for the central co-ordinating role she played to ensure that all the hundreds of people stranded in the village found accommodation, hot food and drink.</p>	
<p>353/2023</p>	<p>Councillor Matters</p> <p>It was noted that new Christmas Lights and Christmas Tree anchoring equipment are necessary to prepare for next Christmas.</p> <p><u>Councillor Adams</u> mentioned the brightness of the lights at the entrance to the Coniston Inn could lead to potential problems for drivers on the Hawkshead Road.</p> <p><u>Councillor McCracken</u> raised the need for maintenance work to be undertaken at the Haws Bank bus shelter.</p> <p><u>Councillor Coward</u> confirmed that although Mr Coates has moved to Windermere he is keen to remain the Parish Lengthsman. This was warmly welcomed by all those present.</p>	<p>JB/MD</p> <p>MD</p>

	<u>Councillor Troughton</u> announced her intention to stand down at the next election. Councillor Coward spoke on behalf of the Parish Council when she thanked Councillor Troughton for her work and commitment over her many years of service.	
	Financial Matters	
354/2023	NOTED: The following receipts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAYAX (Income from public toilets) £139.75 • Coppermines Cottages (Rocking Horse) £889.32 • Household Support Fund Grant £1,000.00 	
355/2023	RESOLVED: To authorise payment of the following accounts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jigsaw (October Cleaning) £542.35 • M Dearnley (Home Working Allowance) £20.00 • M Dearnley (Reimbursement: Christmas Tree) £30.00 • Coniston Sports and Social Centre £30.00 • Brady Corporation (Seton: Rock Salt) £77.48 • WJ Carpenter Computers (laptop servicing) £80.00 • DD Southern Electric £85.37 	
356/2023	RESOLVED: To donate £500.00 to the Kitchen Refurbishment at Coniston Sports and Social Club.	
357/2023	RESOLVED: To donate £200.00 to Coniston Mountain Rescue Team as an expression of appreciation for the community work they undertake throughout the year.	
358/2023	RESOLVED: To set the 2024/25 precept at £23,736.00.	
	Correspondence	
359/2023	No breakdown of correspondence had been circulated	
	Next Meeting	
360/2023	The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7pm on Monday, 15 th January 2024 in the Institute Reading Room.	

The meeting closed at 8:53pm

.....
Date

.....
Signed & Approved by (Chair)

..... Date Chair Initials