

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, 15th April 2024

Present: Councillors: T Coward, J Buller, D Adams, and S Atkinson
Clerk: M Dearnley
Members of the Public: Lian Dixon, Philip Johnston, Councillor Suzanne Pender and Simon Hill (NT)

Minute Number	PART ONE	Action By
178/2024	<p>Apologies</p> <p>RESOLVED: To accept the apologies tendered by Councillor McCracken and Councillor Troughton.</p> <p>The Chair took the opportunity to pay tribute to the ten years of service to her community made by Councillor Troughton as parish councillor. All those present expressed their best wishes for all that the future holds for her.</p> <p>Although councillor for fewer years, the Chair also expressed her sadness to see Councillor Atkinson standing down as a result of a move out of the area.</p>	
179/2024	<p>Requests for Dispensations.</p> <p>None.</p>	
180/2024	<p>Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of Agenda items</p> <p>The Chair declared that she owned a holiday rental property that is let through the company owned by the applicant in the Lands Field planning application. Advice had been sought from Westmorland and Furness Council; it has confirmed that the Chair may be involved in both discussion and voting in relation to this application.</p>	
181/2024	<p>Minutes</p> <p>RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting of 18th March 2024 were approved as a true and accurate record.</p>	
182/2024	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>There were none.</p>	
183/2024	<p>Public Participation</p> <p>Westmorland and Furness Council: Councillor Pender had provided an update on a wide range of casework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road resurfacing on Hawkshead Road at Hollin Bank/Monk Coniston is being undertaken. 	

<p>184/2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She has made representations to the Highways Authority to protest at the practice of utility companies misusing their power to close roads in emergencies when a more considered planned approach to road closures is more appropriate. • Windermere Ferry is undergoing its winter maintenance programme. • ‘Destination Coniston’ plan is being developed between Councillor Pender, Coniston Business Forum, Cumbria Tourism and Coniston Parish Council. The active involvement of all parish councillors is desirable. • The 20mph zone application is still being considered • The road makings showing ‘slow’ on Shepherds Bridge Lane is still outstanding one year after Highways identified it as being important to road safety. <p><u>National Trust:</u> Simon Hill was present to provide an update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He detailed void properties in the parish and the need for, refits and refurbishments, but that securing suitable contractors was continuing to prove difficult. • SY Gondola is back on Coniston Water and after some initial mechanical issues is working well. Several jetties are in poor condition and the jetties at Parkamoor and Coniston Boating Centre are due to be repaired. However, the future of the jetty at Monk Coniston is in doubt, as it is in poor condition and is less used by boats than others. • Tarn Hows had been busy at Easter. Web pages and guides are being updated. • High Oxen Fell Farm is to be let as a working farm. • It is the National Trust’s intention to share the work they and their tenant farmers are doing in relation to environmental projects e.g. meadow restoration at Boon Crag Farm and Far End. They will be contacting the local community to invite them to learn more and possibly get involved. <p><u>Coniston Business Forum.</u> Michael Dearnley confirmed that the next meeting of the Business Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, 17th April and that all councillors are welcome to attend.</p> <p><u>Coniston and Torver Community Land Trust:</u> No report.</p> <p><u>Coniston Institute</u> The Clerk to ask that the Parish Council be reinstated on the circulation list for agendas and minutes.</p> <p><u>Comments and representations from members of the public</u></p> <p>Mr Johnston provided some information regarding the Windermere Ferry.</p>	
<p>185/2024</p>	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>Reference: 7/2023/5771 Location: Lawson Park, Coniston, Cumbria, LA21 8AD Proposal: Conversion and extension of workshop to provide dwelling house for use in association with existing facilities</p> <p>RESOLVED: Object</p>	

<p>186/2024</p>	<p>Reference: 7/2024/5172 Location: Lands Field, Yewdale Road, Coniston Proposal: Creation of coach and car park, public bus stop, erection of building to accommodate e-bike hire, toilet and information facilities, and associated infrastructure and landscaping.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Support</p>	
<p>187/2024</p>	<p><u>NOTED:</u> The following grant of planning permission:</p>	
	<p>Reference: 7/2024/5068 Location: Thurston House, Coniston, LA21 8EE Proposal: Removal of a redundant steel fire escape staircase to rear of building and reinstating former window in first floor door opening.</p> <p>Reference: 7/2023/5722 Location: Brantwood, Coniston, LA21 8AD Proposal: Proposed drainage improvements and installation of treatment plant</p>	
<p>188/2024</p>	<p><u>NOTED:</u> The following refusal of planning permission</p>	
	<p>Reference: 7/2024/5067 Location: Old Furness Road, Coniston, Cumbria, LA21 8HU Proposal: Creation of car park for mountain rescue team parking</p>	
<p>189/2024</p>	<p><u>NOTED:</u> The following withdrawal off application for planning permission</p>	
	<p>Reference: 7/2024/5011 Location: Low Bank Ground Outdoor Centre, Coniston, LA21 8AA Proposal: Provision of new external standby generator within fenced compound area</p>	
	<p>Reference: 7/2023/5825 Location: Low Bank Activity Centre, East shore of Lake Coniston Water, Coniston, LA21 8AA Proposal: Maintenance works to existing stone boat house and extension to boat house to provide additional boat storage</p>	
<p>190/2024</p>	<p>Coniston Maintenance, Parking and Highway Issues</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon investigation, Westmorland and Furness Council discovered that the Brow Steps were an adopted road and as such will be inspected to identify any problems that need to be addressed and will be included in routine repair and maintenance thereafter. • Tod Coates, the Coniston Lengthsman’s work around the parish was praised and is having a real impact for visitors and residents alike. 	
<p>191/2024</p>	<p>Public Toilets</p>	
	<p>The Gents locking mechanism has not been working since the toilets reopened in March. This has been reported to Healthmatic and they have committed to making a repair free of charge, but will then work with the Clerk to identify a suitable service contract to avoid problems moving forward.</p>	

192/2024	<p>Climate, Nature and Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The wildflower area by the Green has been scarified and re-seeded. Due to difficult access as a result of camper vans being parked outside the graveyard this area has not been actively managed. Bathing Water Status. DEFRA's formal consultation on three sites on Coniston Water has closed. 	
193/2024	<p>Lake Road Playground</p> <p>Further planning has been suspended until grant applications submitted by Councillor Atkinson bear fruit. Other applications are being prepared, but a working target of £70,000 will allow a partial replacement, refurbishment and redesign.</p>	
194/2024	<p>Climate and Nature Partnership</p> <p>Sam Plum, the Chief Executive of Westmorland and Furness Council, visited Coniston to see first-hand the projects the Council had funded. She met with Judith Myers and Tracy Dearnley, Coniston Women's Institute who were able to describe the use the Household Support Grant had been put to when it established and maintained the Community Pantry. They were also able to describe the work the Partnership is planning at the playground in relation to nature and diversity.</p>	
195/2024	<p>Emergency Planning</p> <p>A meeting was held between the Parish Council, Coniston Mountain Rescue, Fire and Rescue Service and the Sports and Social Centre. The Sports and Social Club is to be a Resilience Hub that in the event of an emergency would be the focus for hot food and drink, warmth, light shelter and communication.</p> <p>The emergency generator is fully operational and a reserve tank is to be purchased by the Parish Council using funds from Cumbria Foundation. The Club is undergoing a major refit of its catering capacity and any additional funds held by the Parish Council will be spent in co-ordination with the other groups to ensure that items purchased are those most in need.</p>	
196/2024	<p>Councillor Matters</p> <p>None.</p>	
197/2024	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>NOTED: The following receipts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cumbria Foundation £1906.00 Westmorland & Furness Council (Grant K7 Return) £500.00 Coniston 14 (Grant K7 Return) £500.00 Bank Interest £142.33 	
198/2024	<p>RESOLVED: To authorise payment of the following accounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> T Coates (April Invoice) £569.36 M Dearnley (April Salary) £558.80 M Dearnley (Home Working Allowance) £20.00 M Dearnley (Reimbursement: Generator Fuel Tank) £141.41 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M Dearnley (Reimbursement: Greeting Cards) £20.00 • Speddings Electrical (Installation of Generator) £2,606.22 • CALC and NALC Annual Subscription £264.33 	
199/2024	NOTED: The fourth quarter and final year accounts for 2023/24.	
200/2024	RESOLVED: To appoint Fiona Ebbs as Internal Auditor	
201/2024	NOTED: The Asset Register.	
202/2024	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>No breakdown of correspondence had been circulated</p>	
203/2024	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7pm on Monday, 20th May 2024 in the Reading Room of the Coniston Institute.</p>	

The meeting closed at 9:02pm

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Date

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Signed & Approved by (Chair)