# APPLEBY-IN-WESTMORLAND TOWN COUNCIL

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## Planning and General-Purposes Committee Minutes

For the meeting held in the Moot Hall

**Monday 8th July 2024 at 6.45pm**

| **Present:** | | **Also in attendance:** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cllr Curley (Chairman) | Cllr Pape | Cllr Anderton | Cllr Rooke |
| Cllr Davidson (Ex-officio) | Cllr Railton | Cllr Heap | |
| Cllr Hilsden | Cllr Turnbull | Town Clerk and Clerk's Assistant | |

**P1/07/24 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Connell.

**P2/07/24 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest in respect of this meeting.

**P3/07/24 Actions from the Previous Minutes**

- **Black and White Bollards**

The bollard installation is currently on hold awaiting the go ahead from Westmorland & Furness Council. There is currently no staff in the Estates Team in Penrith, so it has been referred to officers in Kendal. 80 bollards have been made and 60 are painted and ready to be installed. The contractor is running out of storage room and the Clerk has spoken to the Environment Agency, who have agreed to store some palettes of bollards at their compound.

- **Fingerposts and interpretation maps**

Highways have confirmed they will begin installing the fingerposts and interpretation boards on Monday 22nd July. This will take approximately one week.

- **Doomgate FRMS project**

The work to install a new outflow pipe has started on the grass area behind Broad Close car park. This work has been brought forward as it needs to be done during the summer months when the river levels are at their lowest. This work will take approximately 16 weeks, and a small section of the riverside footpath between Edenside and the playground will remain closed during this time. The work on the compound has also begun, with the footpath from the Leisure Centre that runs alongside the cricket pitch now closed for the duration of the works.

The planning application for the demolition of Edenside has now gone through. It is hoped to start demolishing the building later in July, which will take approx. 4-5 weeks. The temporary car park will then take a further 4-5 weeks to complete, so it is estimated that Broad Close will be closed towards the end of September. However, these dates are not set in stone.

- **St Lawrence's Church – Foxes Book of Martyrs**

The Clerk met with Jo Ayres from St Lawrence's Church to see the books. There are 3 leather bound volumes of considerable size. Although it is difficult to get an exact value of the books for insurance purposes without getting a professional valuation, an approx. value can made, comparing them with similar volumes. A storage unit needs to be obtained before they can be moved to the Moot Hall. It was suggested that they could be displayed in the TIC Exhibition room in the lockable display cabinets. Cllr Turnbull expressed concerns that they needed to be protected from being damaged by UV light. Cllr Curley felt they should go on display for the residents and visitors to be able to see them. It was agreed to keep progressing this.

Cllr Railton asked about Heritage Open Weekend and the QR Code trail launch. The Clerk confirmed the signs need making for the QR code trail before it can be launched, but a 'mock-up' can be circulated for councillors to make comments first. At present, it is not confirmed whether Heritage Open Weekend will be going ahead yet, as there are currently not enough properties wanting to be involved.

**P4/07/24 Planning Applications**

Under Westmorland and Furness Council's consultation process, to consider the following Planning Applications, plus any late arrivals, to prepare, under delegated authority, a response from Council:

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|---|---|
| 2024/0791/FPA<br><br>**49 Boroughgate, CA16 6XG**<br>Retrospective erection of a greenhouse and base<br>*Applicant: Mr L Seymour*<br><br>No comments or objections. | 2024/0774/FPA<br><br>**22 Castle View Road, CA16 6HH**<br>Erection of first floor balcony<br>*Applicant: Mrs Faye Collins*<br><br>No comments or objections |

*A late item was received which needed consideration prior to the next planning committee meeting:*

Following regular complaints by the refuse collection team, Highways are proposing the enforcement of a temporary order to install double yellow lines on junctions in and around Garths Head Road, Clifford Street, Bellevue and Pembroke Street to prevent inconsiderate parking, reduce hazards and improve road safety.

Residents in the area will also be consulted.

It was agreed that in principle the Council had no objections to these proposals, but they would be led by residents once they were consulted.

Cllr Turnbull raised an issue with the top of Lady Garths path, stating this is frequently blocked by parked cars and visitors walking down from the train station cannot find their way into town. It was agreed that representation should be made to extend the double yellows to cover this entrance.

**P5/07/24 Planning Decisions**

Under Westmorland and Furness Council's consultation process, the following Planning Decisions were noted:

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|---|---|
| Tree CA No objection<br><br>**Appleby Swimming Pool, Chapel Street, CA16 6QR**<br>Conservation area works to Horse Chestnut<br>*Applicant: Westmorland and Furness Council* | |

**P6/07/24 Chairman's Report**

There was no Chair's report in respect of this meeting.

**P7/07/24 Appleby Fair**

- **Complaint email received from Parish Residents sent via the Appleby Fair Community Group Facebook page**

The Clerk reported that approx. 70 emails had been received from Appleby residents expressing their concern about the Horse Fair. All the emails have been generated via a google form posted on the Appleby Fair Community Group Facebook page. Cllr Curley advised that most of the concerns/issues relate to matters that are the responsibility of Westmorland & Furness Council or other members of MASCG. There are issues relating to the use of Fair Hill and the costs incurred by Appleby Town Council and the parish. These points relating to Fair Hill will be dealt with directly and the other points will be addressed by Westmorland & Furness.

Some of the emails include a request for a Parish Meeting to discuss these issues. This request will be actioned and when a date is set, it will be advertised within the town.

- **Freedom of Information requests received from Appleby Fair Community Group Facebook page**

The Clerk reported that she has received numerous FOI requests from the Group.

Cllr Anderton raised the issue that residents should know how much AFCG is costing them in staff time, and effectively taking time and money away from doing things that can be done positively for the town.

Cllr Railton commented that he had been contacted by AFCG and had a couple of questions to ask. He asked how the fee for Fair Hill was decided? The Clerk advised it gets increased annually in line with RPI. The licensee also pays for extra policing, stewards, security, portaloos, skips and the clean-up. The assumptions made about what profit is made are entirely speculation.

Cllr Railton also asked about Cllr Potts' suggestion of imposing a visitor tax. The Clerk advised that a previous Councillor had actually raised the idea of visitor tax, and Cllr Potts had suggested that visitors to Fair Hill would be asked to contribute an additional amount on top of the standard camping fee, as a donation to the town. This had been raised with Mr Welch, but he advised it was very unlikely that anyone would be willing to part with extra money. Cllr Anderton said this was tried by the late Cllr Keith Morgan and it hadn't worked.

**P8/07/24 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas**

- Appleby Grammar School are holding a public consultation about their upcoming building works on Tuesday 16th July 2024 from 3.40-6pm. An invitation has been circulated inviting Councillors and key stakeholders to a dedicated session prior to the public event, which will be held from 2.30-3.30pm. Cllr Anderton requested that the public drop-in be publicised on the website and Facebook pages.
- The Clerk reported the Co-op had installed additional safety measures at the entrance and exit of their car park, including a speed bump and zebra crossings.
- Following the request to investigate the viability of installing a zebra crossing on Boroughgate, the Clerk reported that Highways will be carrying out an assessment to identify the volume of vehicles and pedestrians. The data would then help to identify if a controlled crossing is required, and which would be the most appropriate. They will be carrying out this assessment during the summer months when town has its peak number of pedestrians and vehicles. Cllr Pape advised some days in town are busier than others so they should choose a busy day.
- Westmorland and Furness are holding a public consultation drop in event on Thursday 18th July from 3-7pm in Appleby Public about their new Local Plan. This is an opportunity for residents to comment on what they think should be included in the new Plan.
- The Clerk highlighted the recent decision by the Westmorland & Furness Strategic Planning Committee to reject a planning application from Story Homes for a development of approx. 200 houses in Penrith as the provision of affordable housing was insufficient.
- Cllr Curley asked if the Dog Issues Working Party could give an update at the next committee meeting.

**P9/07/24 Next Meeting**

To note that the next meeting of the Planning and General Purposes Committee will be on **Monday 9th September 2024** at **6.45pm** in the Moot Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.52pm.

At the Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 17th July 2024**, the Chairman of this meeting was authorised by the Council to sign these minutes, to confirm they are a true and accurate record:

*Cllr Pamela Davidson*