APPLEBY-IN-WESTMORLAND TOWN COUNCIL

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Appleby Town Council Minutes

For the meeting held in the Moot Hall

Wednesday 18th September 2024 at 6.45pm

Councillors Present:		**Also in attendance:**
Cllr Davidson (Chair)	Cllr Hilsden	Rev Andrew Burrell, *left after prayer*
Cllr Curley (Vice-Chair)	Cllr Kemp	Andrew Keough, Herald, *arr. 6.58pm*
Cllr Anderton	Cllr Railton	Member of the Public
Cllr Chalmers	Cllr Rooke	Town Clerk and Clerk's Assistant
Cllr Connell	Cllr Smith	
Cllr Heap	Cllr Turnbull	

Rev Andrew Burrell opened the meeting with a prayer.

C1/09/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Pape.

C2/09/24 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Anderton declared a personal interest in any item relating to Fair Hill, as her property borders it.

C3/09/24 Public Participation

Mr Wilkinson of Drawbriggs Court attended the meeting to express concerns about the recycling centre, as his house backs onto the land at the Heritage Centre where the centre has been recently relocated to. His main complaint is the constant noise coming from shattering glass, vehicles leaving their engines running, bin lids being dropped heavily and the early morning collections. Also, residents are concerned that fly tipping will result in a problem with rodents. Mr Wilkinson asked why the recycling centre is needed when all households have a kerbside recycling collection service. Cllr Davidson thanked the resident for attending and advised the recycling centre will be discussed in item 11 on the agenda.

C4/09/24 Minutes

- **Ordinary Meeting of the Council**

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Chair of the meeting to sign the minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting of the Council** held on **Wednesday 17th July 2024** as a true and accurate record and the Council to approve any resolutions.

- **Planning and General Purpose Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign the minutes of the **Planning & General Purpose** Committee held on **Monday 9th September 2024** as a true and accurate record.

- **Finance Committee Minutes**

The Finance Committee on Monday 9th September 2024 was not held, as it was not quorate.

- **Property Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign the minutes of the Property Committee held on **Monday 9th September 2024** as a true and accurate record.

C5/09/24 Unitary Authority Reports

Cllr Connell reported he is now back to regular duties with Westmorland & Furness Council.

He reported that the road repairs and associated road closure on Colby Lane had gone very smoothly and had caused less disruption than feared.

He is aware that the loss of parking spaces in Broad Close car park is currently the main concern for many. Unfortunately, Westmorland & Furness Council did not have a say in the closure, as the Environment Agency exercised their statutory powers to close the car park.

C6/09/24 Police Newsletter – July and August

The Newsletter for July and August was received.

C7/09/24 Mayor's Report

The Mayor's report was received and accepted.

Cllr Davidson reported on some of the activities she had attended over the summer in her capacity as Mayor, including Eden Animal Rescue's dog show, Ormside Education Centre, local agricultural shows, and a commemorative service to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem.

Cllr Davidson thanked Councillors involved with the Dog Related Issues Working Party and suggested that although the Council had established the group, they should now be looking to step back. She asked that the group start to think about an exit strategy to enable Appleby Town Council to remove themselves as the lead, but to continue as a resident led working group.

Cllr Davidson reported that CALC have asked that Councils remind Councillors of the Code of Conduct. The Clerk will circulate some information and add this item to the next agenda.

Cllr Connell added that the newly formed Place Action Group are holding a meeting on Thursday 19th Sept in Warcop. This group replaces the previous Area Planning Group, which met bi-monthly and disbanded earlier in the year. Any ideas and plans from Area Planning will be carried forward.

C8/09/24 Clerk's Report

- **Black and White Bollards**

Our contractor is now on the last stretch of Boroughgate and is hoping to be finished by the end of September. Westmorland & Furness have requested that the bollards on the Sands adjacent to the road need to be removeable, so a solution needs to be found to enable this. As the Council have spent all the budget ringfenced for replacing the bollards, more funding will need to be sourced to replace the remaining ones.

- **Broad Close Car Park**

Partial closure of Broad Close commenced on Monday 16th Sept. There are currently 25 spaces available, which will reduce to 10 at the end of October. It is expected that the temporary car park at Edenside will be up and running early in December. Alternative parking will be available at Appleby Castle until the temporary car park is ready. Broad Close parking permits have been cancelled with immediate effect and permit holders will be refunded backdated to 1st September.

The Bowling Club have offered 8 spaces for use by town centre businesses. The EA will compensate them directly for these spaces and they will be advertised to businesses on a first come / first served basis. W&F Library Services have also offered 2/3 spaces.

C9/09/24 Tourist Information Centre Report

The TIC Manager reported on a positive year so far. A highlight of the summer was the Crafty Ladies art trail. It was estimated around 800 trail sheets had been given out.

We have benefitted from a wide range of marketing initiatives over the past few months, including a Cumbria Tourism initiative to promote culture and heritage outside the national park and 'A day out in Appleby' feature on the Lake District Cumbria website.

We have also paid for a front-page advert in the Settle to Carlisle railway line guide, with a QR code linking to our Visit Appleby website.

The Heritage Open Weekend had been successful, even though less venues took part this year and good feedback had been received about the new Heritage QR code trail. The Back to Hogwarts Day organised in conjunction with the Settle to Carlisle railway had also been a success.

The 563 bus service has brought additional visitors to the town.

An Instagram influencer is visiting Appleby on Saturday to film some content about the town's heritage and dog friendly places, funded by Cumbria Tourism.

C10/09/24 Parish Meeting Request

A request to hold a Parish Meeting has been received via email complaints received from 73 Appleby residents. The emails had consisted of the same content, which had been generated from a survey link posted in the Appleby Fair Communities Group Facebook page.

The Council is being asked to hold a Parish Meeting to discuss certain issues that residents are unhappy with in relation to Appleby Horse Fair. These issues relate specifically to the use of Fair Hill for the purpose of the Fair and asking Appleby Council to distance themselves from the Fair. The group have also requested that Appleby Council represent them in their request to Westmorland & Furness Council for their Council Tax not be used to fund the Fair, as well as concerns around their lack of transparency regarding associated costs.

It was agreed a Parish Meeting should be held as requested. The Clerk will organise a suitable date.

C11/09/24 Recycling Centre

The Clerk reported that in addition to Mr Wilkinson, one other resident had complained directly to the Council about the recycling centre and there has been some complaints posted on social media.

The Clerk reported that Council staff had increased the frequency of checks to the recycling centre. The bins have also been re-arranged, to help alleviate problems with overflowing bins, as people tend to overuse the front bins.

Polystyrene and other items will be removed and put in our Public Hall bin.

W&F Contracts Manager has confirmed they will speak to the contractor about the very early collection that was experienced recently, and they have put a sign up to remind users to be respectively of nearby residents.

With regards to the question about whether Appleby needs a recycling centre: W&F Council confirmed the provision of recycling centres was last discussed by Eden District Council in 2012, as part of a wider review, and it was agreed to retain the district's recycling centres. A review of waste and recycling services is currently in progress, again as part of a wider review, so this is something that will be considered as part of this review.

W&F have said that if another site can be identified, they would be open to considering it, but the Heritage Centre was chosen because W&F own the site. Cllr Railton asked whether there is space on the industrial estate, as this is away from any residential areas and perhaps somewhere that already has CCTV installed. Cllr Anderton thought there was already CCTV in place at the Heritage Centre, but it does not deter people. The Clerk didn't think there was CCTV installed, but would ask W&F.

Cllr Hilsden said that he had been approached by a couple of residents who have mobility issues and find it hard to get to the Heritage Centre site. These residents should be encouraged to make use of the household recycling collection service.

Cllr Heap suggested that the recycling centre provision could be suspended during the 20 month period that Broad Close is closed.

It was agreed that the Clerk would discuss the comments and suggestions made with W&F.

C12/09/24 W&F Local Plan Consultation

The Clerk reported that the notes from the Local Plan meeting will be sent to Cllr Curley in the first instance, then distributed to Councillors for comment, before sending to W&F.

C13/09/24 Councillor Surgeries

The Clerk reported that the 4 monthly surgeries held in March-June had no attendees, but that the July meeting had a few attendees.

It was agreed to continue with the surgeries, but on a quarterly, rather than monthly, basis.

C14/09/24 Outside Body Reports

Cllr Anderton reported that ACAT were holding a Wellness Day in the Public Hall on Sunday 22nd Sept, and a Quiz Night at the Royal Oak on Friday 25th Oct, to raise money for the Christmas lights.

C15/09/24 Schedule of Payments & Bank Transfers – July and August 2024

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chair be authorised to sign the schedule of payments for the month of **July 2024**, totalling £16,418.24. This figure includes employee salaries and all other expenditure and purchases; and is inclusive of VAT.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chair be authorised to sign the schedule of payments for the month of **August 2024**, totalling £27,659.33. This figure includes employee salaries and all other expenditure and purchases; and is inclusive of VAT.

C16/09/24 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

- Cllr Kemp broached an idea about setting up a community garden scheme, as she had come across one recently and thought it was a good way to bring people together. Cllr Chalmers thought that not all of the allotments at the Heritage Centre were in use and this would be worth looking at as a potential location. The TIC Manager also mentioned that there is a similar scheme run at Tebay, which collects people from Appleby.
- Cllr Rooke reported that 89 people had attended the Council Chamber on Saturday as part of Heritage Open Weekend, and a further 51 on Sunday. Although these figures were down from last year, there were visitors from as far as Aberdeen and Ukraine, as well as far more local residents than previous years. The Foxe's Book of Martyr's had also been a draw. He thanked all Councillors who helped and the Clerk's office for all the work that went into getting the Chamber ready. Cllr Rooke was also thanked for his contribution over the weekend.

C17/09/24 Next Meeting

To note that the Ordinary Meeting of the Council will be on **Wednesday 23rd October 2024** at **6.45pm** in the Moot Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.57pm.

At the Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 23rd October 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 Davidson